DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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DISGRACE

TV crime show is a shocker, says MP

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RUDY GOOD

Standing ovation for Lenny's play

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PLANS RETHINK FOR LANDMARK

CHANGES have been made to plans to bring a landmark in Dudley town centre back into use, following pressure from a heritage watchdog.

Birmingham developer Parkstone Group first unveiled proposals earlier this year to turn the historic former post office headquarters on the corner of Wolverhampton Street and Priory Road into 21 one-bedroom flats.

But English Heritage raised objections to a proposed accessibility ramp at the front of the impressive Edwardian building.

The heritage watchdog claimed the ramp 'seriously harmed' the imposing appearance of the Grade II listed building.

Ramp

In updated plans submitted to Dudley Council this week, the developer has changed the front elevation design of the Palazzo style building to remove the ramp.

In a letter to Dudley Council, Alan Taylor, historic buildings inspector for English Heritage, said the body had no objection in principle to bringing the building back into use.

But he said: "English Heritage is very concerned by the intrusive design and siting of the proposed access ramp across the main, Wolverhampton Street elevation.

"This was designed to be the most distinctive, public facade of this Italianate Palazzo style building.

"Its imposing and flamboyant appearance would be seriously harmed by the proposed ramp snaking across the lower part of the building concealing the stonework.

By Alex Ross

"English Heritage objects to this part of the current submission."

In response, The Parkstone Group sent in two amended plans for the site and the final one saw the removal of the ramp.

The developer has also proposed transparent glass handrails on the stairways of the building.

The current value of the building is £500,000 and the work to create the flats would cost £1.58m.

The building's style architecture is based on the palaces built by wealthy families during the Italian Renaissance.

It was designed by architect John Rutherford and was built in 1909.

The building ceased operating as a post office in 1986.

It was last used as a nightclub, called Nulla Nulla, in 2000, but that closed after just 14 months.

Plans were submitted for 22 homes for the building eight years ago.

They were given the go-ahead by planning inspector Richard Thomas, who said the development would provide a 'vibrant use for an important listed building'.

But despite that approval, no work started and the site remains empty today.

Beacon Hotel shines as the best pub

Beacon barmaid Samantha Powell, left, operations manager Simon Massey and assistant manager Kayleigh Millard

SEDGLEY'S Beacon Hotel has been named as the best pub in the West Midlands by real ale campaigners in the latest copy of the Good Beer Guide.

The ale fan's bible also adds a string of new pubs to its lists across the Black Country and Worcestershire as the British appetite for the national drink continues to grow.

The White Lion in Sedgley, the reopened Fountain in Walsall and the Hail to the Ale in Claregate – opened barely 12 months ago – are all new entries chosen by the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) in the latest guide.

It is the Beacon Hotel, home of the Sarah Hughes brewery, that is considered the cream of the crop in the West Midlands and it is one of 16 pubs nationwide that will battle it out for the title of Camra's pub of the year in February.

Unchanged

The Guide is full of praise for the Sedgley pub. It says: "This hotel has sat virtually unchanged for decades. It is a Grade II listed building, with a nationally important historic pub interior, where time has stood still.

"The Beacon lives up to its name – it shines."

The Beacon's operations manager Simon Massey put the success of the pub, which dates back to1848, down to the quality of its beer served and its atmosphere.

"We are an old fashioned drinking pub," he said. "People come here to meet their mates and have a good chat. We don't have a jukebox and the most modern thing in here is the till."

The guide reveals that the Black Country, Staffordshire and north Worcestershire enjoy a wealth of good pubs, with more than 100 listed in the new edition of the book. It also has more than 20 breweries.

35 pupils are sent home over trainers

MORE than 30 children were sent home from school for wearing Nike trainers instead of shoes.

Parents spoke of their anger at having their children taken out of High Arcal School for wearing the sports shoes, which they claim they had been allowed to wear previously.

Jo Manson, head teacher, said students were sent home for failing to adhere to the uniform policy. "There have only been 35 students sent home and there are 1,200 pupils here, it's a very small amount," she said.

It comes after 100 pupils were sent home from nearby The Coseley School for wearing black trainers.

Pupils gathered outside the school gates on Monday morning claimed they had been told they could wear the trainers until half term.

Mrs Manson said: "School policy has always been no trainers can be worn. A vast majority of parents understand our position. We have been doing what we can to try and help parents, by giving them a loan.

"We normally send a letter and a text to parents before the school year but there was a problem with our texting system at the start of this year. Our website has always had the uniform policy."

Episode axed after arrest

THE latest episode of Cops and Robbers had to be axed after a man in the show was arrested for a serious sex offence against a woman in Birmingham.

The Channel Four series, following officers dealing with offenders in Dudley and Birmingham, has been condemned by MPs and residents (see pages 4 and 10).

Monday's edition was postponed after a 31-year-old man was arrested. He did not feature in last week's episode of the four-part documentary.

Question mark over future of Quest

THE firm behind the loss-making Quest entertainment zone at the Merry Hill shopping centre has warned it may have to close the £1.3 million project.

Opened just two years ago, it has failed to make a profit and operator Paragon Entertainment says 'performance continues to be challenging'.

The company, which builds visitor attractions like the Wallace and Gromit ride at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and the official Olympic Museum in Switzerland, has slashed the value of the Quest centre by £420,000 to just £150,000 and warns that closure is an option.

Paragon says it is also considering further investment or moving the location of the attraction, which includes rope walks, soft play areas, a jungle-gym assault course and Nerf combat arena. The Quest centre created 30 jobs when it first opened but now has just two full-time staff and a number of part-timers.

A company spokeswoman confirmed the company had been in talks with Merry Hill's new owners, the Intu group, but declined to comment on the nature or content of their discussions.

Paragon used the Quest centre to launch the attractions arm of the its business in 2012.

Police hunt park attacker

A TEENAGE girl was sexually assaulted on her way to school in Brierley Hill.

Police say the 16-year-old was walking through Woodside Park, near the Highgate Road entrance when the incident happened at around 8.20am on Monday, September 8.

The attacker described as white, around 5ft 4ins, in his 20s and of medium build with messy brown hair, wearing grey tracksuit bottoms and a black top. Call police on 101.

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CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Dudley who can help:

Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk

Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex-ross@expressandstar.co.uk

Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk

Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk

Katy-Rose Meaney: 01384 353201
katy.meaney@expressandstar.co.uk

What's happening in your area? We are always keen to hear about any issues affecting you. E-mail your information and pictures to:
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Sports:
Tel: 01902 319453. e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

Advertising

Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353234
E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring:

Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution:

Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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MP backs school fingerprint scheme

A MP who is also the governor of a school which has installed fingerprints scanners in a £20,000 project said staff were 'ahead of the game' by launching the scheme.

But Stourbridge MP Margot James that parents' views will be considered after some said they were concerned about the move.

Redhill School in Stourbridge will bring in the technology as part of a plan to implement a cashless system throughout the school. It will be used in the canteen to help cut queue times.

It comes after schools other parts of the Black Country, including Dudley and Wolverhampton, have trialled the scheme.

The system requires pupils to press a finger against a machine which converts the print into biometric data. This can then be used to identify individual pupils accounts.

The 1,200-pupil school in Junction Road detailed its plans in a letter to parents last month.

Ms James said: "Redhill is ahead of the game with this kind of technology.

"I gather some parents are a little alarmed with having their child's fingerprints taken but provided parents are comfortable with the scheme then I'm OK with it."

Dudley's Conservative opposition spokesman for children's services, Councillor Glenis Simms, added she did have some concerns over the scheme. "I can see the benefits but I also have some concerns over what may be seen as another form of 'big brother' surveillance on us all as we go about our daily life," she added.

Tougher time ahead for benefit claimants

PEOPLE looking for work in the Black Country will be obliged to spend 35 hours a week in a job centre trying to find employment, as part of a new trial starting next month.

This October will see the introduction of the pilot job search schemes, where unemployed benefit claimants will be required to carry supervised job searches every week. Claimants will be expected to sign an attendance register at a local job centre t 9am and search for jobs until 5pm, for five days a week over three months.

If they fail to do so, they will face sanctions, with the first sanction resulting in the loss of one month's worth of benefits, and the second sanction culminating in the withdrawal of three months' money.

The scheme is also being rolled out in East Anglia, West Yorkshire, Surrey and Sussex and will run until March next year. If a success, the Department for Work and Pensions say it may be extended to cover the whole country. A total of 6,000 claimants are being selected to take part.

They will be selected by two criteria: the first batch will be aged between 18-24 and have been claiming for 20-24 weeks, while the second group will be over 25 and have been claiming for 33-37 weeks. They will only be selected if their job adviser thinks they will benefit from the extra support to find work.

A spokesperson from the DWP said: "It's right that we ask claimants to do everything they can to look for work in return for their benefits and this pilot is looking at how we provide that extra support to those whose lack of job-hunting skills is preventing them from finding a job".

Critics claim in many of the places the problem lies in a lack of jobs rather than a lack of job seeking.

Display on those who survived war

A Black Country historian is appealing for people to come forward with stories and photographs relating to the men and women who played a role in the 1914-18 war but came back to tell the tale.

Stan Hough, of Lower Gornal British Legion, holds an exhibition about the Great War at Coseley Library on Saturday, and is hoping more people from the Dudley area will come forward with information.

The exhibition will also look at the stories of servicemen killed in action, particularly focusing on those named on the war memorial outside the former Mount Tabor Church in Woodsetton, Dudley.

Mr Hough said: "We are of course aware of the those that did not return from the memorials and monuments bearing their names, but we do lack information on those that did return, which only local knowledge can provide.

Mr Hough said the branch at Ruiton Street, had built up a collection of artefacts, photographs and histories of people involved in the war.

Email br3247rbl@btinternet.com to get in touch before the event or visit on Saturday.

Freya backs dream charity

Freya and Becky Felton with Claire Felton and Westley Felton dressed a charity mascot

DOZENS of superheroes will be walking between Dudley and Wolverhampton this weekend on a charity walk led by nine-year-old Freya Felton.

The Willenhall schoolgirl will be taking part in the Promise Dreams' Walk for Dreams for the fourth time on Sunday, completing the almost-10 mile walk despite a debilitating illness. Her mother Claire Felton said the family had supported the charity ever since Freya's wish was granted when she was four.

Diagnosed with pancreatitis seven years ago and Freya has been tube fed ever since. In pain every day, the youngster had to be careful how she played outside then five years ago Promise Dreams built Freya a two-tier Wendy house so she could play safely in her garden.

"We have been raising money ever since so they can help other children. It is just our way of saying thank you to them for everything they have done," added Claire.D

The Promise Dreams' Walk for Dreams starts at Himley Hall, Dudley, at 10am, with registration open from 8am.

The rise and fall of council high rises

A HISTORY project based on the rise and fall of council flats in the Black Country is available online.

Residents have shared their experiences in their own words through a selection of history recordings produced by Block Capital, a Heritage Lottery-funded project which is investigating the history of 1960s high rises in the region.

Councillor Elias Mattu, Wolverhampton City Council's cabinet member for leisure and communities, said: "This is a fascinating piece of social history which charts the rise and fall of tower blocks across the Black Country and will be of interest to anyone who wants to find out how their community has developed over the years."

The interviews include what it was like to move into the towers when they were first built. Kevin Aston, one of the interviewees, moved into the new Bolton Court flats in Tipton as a child. He said: "I was so chuffed about it that I went to school the one day, and I think I brought three of my school teachers home to show them the flats, much to my mum's surprise."

Anyone interested in contributing can contact Chaz Mason on 01902 552040.

Bonfire night pallets plea

DUDLEY Council are appealing for businesses to donate wooden pallets for the massive bonfire at Himley Hall fireworks show.

Culture boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Our bonfire and firework show at Himley Hall and Park is one of the biggest and best in the country and rightly attracts thousands of people."

On November 8 gates open at 4.30pm with the bonfire lit at 7.45pm and fireworks from 8.30pm.

Only unbroken wooden pallets are accepted. Companies who are able to deliver should call (01384) 817817.

Town ghost tour

A GHOST tour around Dudley town centre will be held on October 8.

People will be able to hear spooky stories about Dudley's past during the walk which will start from the Station Hotel, Castle Hill, at 8pm. To book a place on the tour call 0870 3207000.

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Bust jams and boost safety is plan's aim

WORK will get started on a £210,000 project to cut congestion and boost pedestrian safety around Sedgley town centre as the scheme is due to be rubber-stamped this week.

Dudley Council has been awarded cash to carry out the works will are also aimed slashing queues for motorists at junctions.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed was presenting the scheme to a meeting of the cabinet yesterday using the cash allocation through a West Midlands-wide road improvements scheme.

Pedestrian crossings are due to be upgraded along the A459 through town centre streets to help safety for shoppers.

Works will take place on the High Street and Dudley Street near the Bull Ring and Townsend Avenue. There will also be works near the Co-Operative food store in High Holborn at Tipton Street traffic signals.

It comes just months after a major roadworks scheme causing chaos for motorists in the town whenGospel End Road was partially closed for five months last year to allow a stone wall to be dismantled and rebuilt further back from the road.

Superfast broadband to get £6m funding

A £6 MILLION funding boost has been secured for a project aimed at connecting 95 per cent of the Black Country to high speed broadband by 2017.

The money will see a major investment in infrastructure in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.

The money has been secured thanks to the four Black Country councils working in partnership with the Black Country Consortium to find £3 million of funding, which will be matched by the Government-backed Broadband Delivery UK. A further £1.5 million is set to be raised by service providers to complete the project.

Dudley MP Ian Austin has been campaigning to get the Government to back the plans for high speed broadband in the area.

Secured

He has recently received a letter from Digital Economy Minister Ed Vaizey to confirm the funding had been secured.

He said: "Constituents got in touch with me after being told by broadband companies that there were no plans for Dudley to get superfast broadband.

"Places like London have been the first to benefit and I don't see why Dudley should be left behind, so I'm really pleased 95 per cent of people in the Black Country will now be covered. I'm pleased the Black Country Consortium and local councils have made this progress. Now I want the Government to guarantee that Dudley will get covered as soon as possible."

Councillor Judy Foster, Dudley Council cabinet member for economic regeneration, added: "In Dudley we are absolutely committed to ensuring businesses in our borough have the platform to prosper and thrive. Only 60 per cent of businesses in the Black Country have access to super-fast broadband but this agreement by the four Black Country councils and the LEP, will help meet the target of super-fast broadband being available to 95 per cent of people."

Blaze death mechanic had threatened to kill his wife

AN ESTRANGED husband pointed a gun at his wife, poured petrol over her and threatened to set them both on fire.

A inquest heard that Brian Franklin died after he set their family home in Dudley alight but his wife Lisa Franklin escaped.

Smethwick Coroners' Court was told that 42-year-old mechanic Mr Franklin had broken into their house in Wood Street on February 8 armed with a, air rifle and a petrol can following the break-up of their marriage.

After dragging Mrs Franklin down the stairs in front of her two children, who he had locked in her car on the drive, Mr Franklin poured petrol on her and threatened to set her alight.

Escape

Mrs Franklin managed to escape to a neighbour's house and called the police but her husband set the house on fire and was later found dead in an upstairs bedroom.

She told the inquest: "I was upstairs in my son's bedroom and the first thing I know is I am being pushed across the bedroom and he stood there pointing a gun at me. He grabbed me by my hair and dragged me downstairs."

Mrs Franklin told the inquest she had ended the marriage following an assault on February 3 where he had slit her wrist.

The care-coordinator said: "He was screaming at

By Jon Pritchard

me 'you have ruined my life, I'm not going to prison for anyone.' He was convinced after the assault he was going to prison.

"He grabbed a bag and got a petrol can out but I thought he was bluffing. Then when he opened it I could smell petrol and he was throwing it all over the house. He said if he was going then he was taking me with him. I was telling him to stop being stupid and I pushed him into the kitchen and turned and ran."

Robin Balmain, senior coroner for the Black Country, said Mr Franklin died from severe burns covering more than 50 per cent of his body.

He said: "It is difficult to know what was going on in his mind but given the threats to his wife it seems to me that his intention was that he would kill himself.

"It is difficult to imagine the terror that Mrs Franklin and the two boys must have suffered."

Armed raid on Aldi store

THREE masked men armed with machetes carried out a robbery at a supermarket in Dudley, leaving one female member of staff with minor injuries.

The robbers burst into Aldi, in Saltwells Road, at 7.15am on Wednesday, September 10, and threatened staff with the weapons before leaving with cash in a getaway car and heading toward Cradley Heath.

A 22-year-old shop worker suffered a cut to her hand during the raid and was treated by paramedics.

Anyone with information should call police on 101.

Pub site homes

PLANS for five four-bedroom detached homes on the site of a Black Country pub have been lodged.

Horgan Homes and Developments Ltd has submitted proposals to Dudley Council planners for the scheme at the Yew Tree Inn in Hockley Lane, Dudley.

Quiz night to help charity

A QUIZ will take place on Thursday, October 2, to raise money for the work of youth charity The Prince's Trust.

The event backed by solicitors Higgs & Sons is being held at The Venue in High Street, Dudley, from 7pm. It will be helping the charity support 13 to 30-year-olds who are unemployed or at risk of exclusion from school.

The cost is a minimum donation of £75 per team of four. There will be food for the teams. Call (01384) 327341.

Organisers, medics and supporters getting ready for the run in Halesowen

Groups getting behind big run

A record number of volunteers have signed up to help at the Black Country Road Run this Sunday.

The run ,which starts and finishes at the Rumbow in Halesowen town centre, features a 10km road race and 5km fun run.

The courses will see competitors put through their paces in a bid to raise funds for charity.

Volunteers will be on hand with a number of organisations having pledged their support. These include the West Midlands 4x4 Response, the Midlands Bike Marshals, Halesowen Zion Church, Old Hill Holy Trinity Church and Halesowen College.

Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club is also backing the event, with Maurice Endacott named as race director on the day. Prolific fundraiser Blind Dave Heeley – famed for running seven marathons across seven continents in seven days – is set to take part in the 10km run.

Alan Blower, of Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, which has organised the event, said he was grateful to all all the volunteers who give up their time to help make the race a success.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Firms needed to back festive lights

AN APPEAL has been launched for sponsors for Christmas trees and festive decorations.

Dudley Council is looking for companies who are interested in sponsoring the borough's festivities. Christmas lights switch-on events will be held in Dudley, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge, Halesowen and other areas across the borough.

One sponsor for each event will be invited to switch on the lights with Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston. Call (01384) 815228 for details.

Jobs are saved in company buyout

MORE than 50 jobs have been saved after an historic Black Country boiler company was rescued from administration by its own management.

Bosses at Wellman have put together a management buyout deal for the business, which went into administration last month.

It saves 52 jobs at the Newfield Road factory in Oldbury, which can trace its roots back to 1840 and Dudley iron boat and boilermaking firm of Danks of Netherton.

Charity night in aid of Dementia UK

A CHARITY night will be held in Stourbridge in aid of Dementia UK. The event featuring music and a raffle will be at Katie Fitzgerald's pub on Friday, October 3, from 8pm.

Organiser Emma Weaver, of Kingswinford, said: "My grandfather suffered with dementia as did my boyfriend's." Band Heroes of Hanoi will headline. Tickets are £3 , call Emma on 07891896476.

New signs are planned at college

COLLEGE bosses have plans for new signs at their Black Country campus.

Birmingham Metropolitan College has submitted proposals to Dudley Council for signs at the Hagley Road site in Stourbridge.

It comes as work continues on a £5 million revamp of the site. The proposals will be considered by planners.

Uni memorial fund

A STUDENT hardship fund is being launched by the University of Wolverhampton in memory of Lord Bilston, former city MP Dennis Turner, after a Government move to axe access to learning funding.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

IT'S too late now but, with hindsight, the campaign to keep the UK together should have played the Celt card and appealed to the Scots' better nature and kinship with the people of Wales. Imagine the impact of a series of short TV commercials with much-loved Welsh celebrities pleading tearfully: "Please, please don't leave us alone with the English."

MORE curious paint names. We are about to redecorate the front room and have narrowed the choice of emulsion down to Churlish Green, Dimpse, Mole's Breath, Archive, Midriff or Placenta. All but two of these are genuine.

I'M off to France next week on a pilgrimage to Cambrai, Arras, Agincourt and various other battlefields. It's a coach trip, arguably the finest mode of travel ever invented. I love the sheer freedom from responsibility. You just turn up, load your case and let some jovial driver take you there, bring you back and deliver you to all points in between. Plus, you can admire the French countryside with a glass of plonk. Parfait. This year marks the centenary of the charabanc. I hope someone is celebrating it.

IRRITATED by the expression "as useless as a chocolate teapot," boffins at Nestle have created one which lasted long enough to brew a cuppa. Well done, all. Now, what about the ashtray for a motorcycle?

WATCHING Peter Capaldi losing his temper as Doctor Who is like watching Lewis Hamilton racing without changing up from first gear. To see Capaldi at his monstrous best, go to YouTube and find the White House scene from the movie In The Loop when his character Malcolm Tucker takes offence at being briefed by an aide who looks about 14. Still terrifying after all these years.

VIVIAN Boyack and Alice Dubes, a lesbian couple in their 90s have just got married in Iowa, having been together since 1942. The preacher remarked at the ceremony: "This is a celebration of something that should have happened a very long time ago." Amen to that. It is only fair that couples like Vivian and Alice can enjoy proper civic and legal rights. But what about those same-sex pairs, like elderly brothers and sisters, who live together as life partners for companionship but are not gay? In England gay couples now have the choice of a civil partnership or marriage. Non-gay couples do not. It seems unfair that issues such as inheritance tax and pension transfer should depend on what people get up to under the sheets.

CHURCH authorities announce that the reburial of Richard III next March will focus on "dignity and honour." Which is only fair. Richard ended his days in a muddy melee at Bosworth and lay buried under a car park in Leicester. Second time round he'll have a proper ceremony, a proper grave and a proper mode of conveyance. A hearse, a hearse . . . .

WHO decides on the names of birds? We encountered a brilliant yellow bird down by the stream on the farm where we have lived for the past 30 years. I have never seen a bird quite so yellow. If it found itself in an aviary full of yellowhammers and canaries, people would inquire: "What's that yellow bird over there?" Yet for all its striking, sunshiny yellowness, the yellow bird turns out to be a grey wagtail. Whatever its proper name, this is the first time we've ever seen one around Chateau Rhodes. Times are changing. Species are on the move. Those big green parakeets cannot be far behind. Even the RSPB website admits: "The grey wagtail is more colourful than its name suggests." So give it another name, eh?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Cops show misses the point for police

WHEN it comes to stopping convicted crooks from committing more crime, West Midlands Police is the best in the country but officers say that success failed to come across in Channel 4's Cops and Robbers.

Of the 171 local authorities in the UK, some of the lowest re-offending rates can be found on our doorstep with Sandwell rated top, Dudley second and Wolverhampton eighth. The success has been attributed to an initiative launched by West Midlands Police seven years ago which involves officers working with offenders in an effort to set them on the straight and narrow.

But according to Superintendent Paul Betts, the force's lead for the Integrated Offender Management programme, Channel 4's documentary highlighted the criminal activities of repeat offenders at the expense of the work police do to stop them. Last week's episode focused on Jason 'Stokesy' Stokes from Pensnett and a drug addict known as Becky.

Supt Betts said: "It focused on the two characters involved, meaning the work we have done to reduce re-offending wasn't really made clear. They have a programme to make and there were obviously plenty of sensationalist comments that came out of it from the characters involved. But the statistics speak for themselves. We have been very successful when it comes to managing offenders' behaviour.

"Locking people up repeatedly does not work. They may have issues with employment, mental health, debt, drug abuse. It is a cycle. That's where our support networks come in. The work is challenging but at the moment I think we are getting the balance right.

'Disgrace' — anger at TV's depiction of town

By Peter Madeley

IS the West Midlands really a crime-ravaged hell-hole populated by scroungers, thugs and thieves?

Of course it's not, but viewers of Channel 4 may be starting to think the region has turned into a British version of downtown Detroit.

First we had Benefits Street, the fly-on-the-wall documentary showing the daily activities of White Dee and her merry band of Brummies on the dole. Now the channel has launched its latest arrow at the region in the shape of Cops and Robbers, a no holds barred look at prolific criminals and the work police do to try and persuade them to curb their crooked ways.

Last week's first episode focused on Dudley — ironically one of the country's most successful spots when it comes to reducing re-offending. It wasn't a pretty picture.

Reducing

We were introduced to 27-year-old Jason 'Stokesy' Stokes, a self-confessed one-man crimewave who revealed his childhood ambition was to become an armed robber. He never made the grade and instead focused his talents on petty crime, a pastime that has led to him spending a large chunk of his adult life locked up.

Then there's Becky, a young woman who finds pinching from shops as easy as sucking back on her crack pipe. She's lost all four of her children to social services.

It all makes for very bleak viewing. But while there are people on benefits all over the country and crime is hardly consigned to the area around Dudley town centre, people in the region are starting to ask, why always us?

Since Cops and Robbers aired many proud Dudley folk have taken to social media to express outrage at what many see as an unfair depiction of life in the town. Councillors and MPs have also had their say.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said he was 'outraged' by the programme. "I thought it was a total disgrace," he said. "You can find people like that in every town and city, but of course they had to single us out.

"There are plenty of decent, hard working people in the town, some of whom come from difficult backgrounds.

"The characters they decided to feature are a nothing but a blight on our community. I want to see them behind bars not splashed across the television screen."

Dudley Council's deputy leader Councillor Peter Lowe echoed the view. He said: "It painted a picture of Dudley that is not recognisable to the vast majority of people who live in the town. The majority of people in the town are law abiding citizens.

"What I saw on television was a sad indictment on a minority of people who have formed a criminal underclass. The programme did not reflect well on Dudley in any way."

Many people from the Black Country aired their feelings on Twitter following the first show.

"I live in the town #copsandrobbers is being filmed in. We aren't all like him. I have a job and I don't even own a tracksuit either," said one Twitter user.

Another said: "Cops and Robbers will do for Dudley what Benefits Street did for Brum."

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the Conservatives on Dudley Council, said the issues addressed in the programme should be highlighted rather than 'swept under the carpet'.

"This sort of thing is going on in Dudley, so why try and hide it away?

"There are some very undesirable people living among us and we must find ways to deal with them. Some people just want to pretend crime isn't happening."

Channel 4 say Dudley was singled out for coverage because of West Midlands Police's efforts in lowering re-offending rates.

Leading

A spokesman for the channel said: "We make clear that this is a national issue but one that the West Midlands Police are leading the way in confronting.

"The location of the documentary was based on the unique access we gained within the West Midlands Police's dedicated offender management team.

"They are extremely proud of the success they are having tackling prolific offenders on their patch."

Jason Stokes from C4 documentary Cops and Robbers

Deirdre Kelly, known as White Dee, in Benefits Street

Hospital trust one of top 100 employers

HEALTH trusts in the Black Country have been named among the top 100 employers in the NHS.

The accolade has been awarded to three organisations in the area after NHS trusts were rated over staff engagement and satisfaction surveys.

Appearing in the top 100 are Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell and Rowley Regis hospitals, and The Royal Wolverhampton Trust which runs New Cross Hospital.

Also rankedis Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust, which runs services at Bloxwich Hospital and Bushey Fields Hospital in Dudley.

Following the national survey, each organisation's data was categorised into seven areas, including leadership and planning, role satisfaction, work environment and training and development, to determine how good they were in each.

As part of its praise for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which also runs City Hospital in Birmingham, the journal said: "Its highly motivated staff are well trained and suffer fewer incidences of discrimination, as well as fewer pressures at work."

Firms vye for HS2 contracts

EIGHTY-FOUR companies from the West Midlands are to bid for £10 billion worth of contracts to build HS2.

Representing more than 150,000 workers, the firms include three from Dudley, two from Wolverhampton and one from Sandwell.

Business leaders will meet with bosses of the high speed rail project at two conferences being held in London and Manchester in October.

The £50 billion scheme is moving closer towards construction with a planned to start to the huge engineering project in 2017.

Pub cuts prices

A PUB in Sedgley is reducing its prices by 7.5 per cent for one day on Wednesday, September 24. The White Horse in Dudley Street is part of the Amber Taverns pubs group, which is supporting Tax Equality Day to show the impact a cut in VAT would have.

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No more elections like last one please

THE new West Midland Police and Crime Commissioner has called for no further elections like the one in which he was selected

David Jamieson will urge the Home Office to change the rules so that future polls for the post are not held at such short notice in the midst of the summer holidays.

The August 21 election, in which he was chosen as a replacement for the late Bob Jones, cost £3.7 million to stage — that's almost £20 for each of the 10 per cent of the voters that bothered to turn out.

He said: "It was not very sensible to hold an election costing that much in the middle of August and we have got to learn from what happened.

"I want the legislation revised and will be making representations to the Home Office in the hope that the necessary changes can be in place by the next Police and Crime Commissioner elections in 2016."

Solihull-born former Labour Transport Minister Mr Jamieson, an former MP, added: "The present Government created this legislation. It was botched from the start and not properly thought through."

Former school is hit by blaze

A LARGE blaze ripped through a derelict school in Blackheath.

More than 40 firefighters and eight fire trucks attended the scene at the former Holt Farm Primary School. The roof of part of the 105-year-old building was destroyed by the fire, which took more than two hours to extinguish.

Flames and plumes of black smoke were visible for miles around the scene on Saturday afternoon. Smethwick crews were joined by firefighters from Dudley, Highgate, Oldbury, Tipton, Ladywood and Haden Cross.

Scooter wrecked

FIREFIGHTERS battled a severe blaze at a home in Dudley after a bin caught fire. The blaze, which is believed to have been started by a cigarette, spread to a fence, caused damage to a van, a garage and destroyed a mobility scooter at the Laurel Road home.

Living museum is attracting more visitors

BLACK Country Living Museum has revealed that visitor numbers are on the up as bosses bid to turn around the finances of the attraction.

Last year the heritage museum made a loss of around £15,000 as numbers dropped for the third year running to around 240,000. But in the first eight months of this year the museum has seen visitor numbers bounce back, up 13 per cent to 185,448 compared to the same period last year.

The figures also show an increase in people coming through the doors during the six-week school holiday period, up 10 per cent to 52,915.

Family

The numbers were boosted by successful events such as the 1940s Weekend and the Family Night, which sold out for the first time.

Marketing and communications director Laura Wakelin said: "We are very pleased about the number of people we have seen this year, it is especially good to see the numbers up over the summer period. This is an exciting period for the museum and we look to further our appeal to visitors, not just from the local area but further afield."

Earlier this year the museum accounts revealed it made a £15,000 loss last year but even this was a big improvement on the year before, when it revealed losses of £300,000.

Mrs Wakelin said the increase in visitor numbers along with an investment to come from a £2.56 million Arts Council grant will help the museum's finances.

She put the increase in visitor numbers down to the good summer weather, 'astute' marketing and new features such as the replica of a greengrocers in Willenhall, which opened before the school holidays.

She said: "We ran events to do with the First World War and opened a greengrocers right at the start of the summer. We are an open air museum and I think the good weather may have also helped us."

Three sent to prison for roles in cannabis factory

THREE men have been jailed for their part in a cannabis factory which had the capacity to generate an annual income of £170,000.

The operation was discovered when police raided a warehouse in Dudley on June 7 this year. Inside the unit, rented by KS Ltd, officers found 64 cannabis plants and the trappings of a 'rug-producing set-up, said Mr Stuart Clarkson, prosecuting at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

This included an automatic watering system for the plants and an electricity supply that had been diverted.

Police went to the landlord who put them in touch with 55-year-old Adrian Pearce, boss of KS Ltd. He told officers he had sub-let the unit to Steven Smith. Police searched the 37-year-old plasterer's address where they found items similar to those at the unit which, in turn, brought 36-year-old Adam McNally into the frame.

Evidence from almost 80 phone calls connected all three in the cannabis enterprise.

Mr Carl Templar-Vasey, defending Smith, said his role had been limited to buying items from eBay because he had an account and for which he was paid £20 an item. "His was a lesser role," said Mr Templar-Vasey.

Defending Pearce, Mr Gurdeep Garcha said his client had been driven by financial difficulties to allowing his premises to be used as a cannabis factory

By Marion Brennan

after a downturn in work brought on by the recession meant he was no longer able to pay rent on the unit. "He knew what was going on but he turned a blind eye to it. He now understands he shouldn't have accepted the offer. He has an impressive work history and is an active member of a local charity. Many have spoken up for him," said Mr Garcha.

Self-employed fitter McNally had been tempted to do a favour for a nominal fee, transporting some equipment to the premises.

Smith, of Roman Road, Warley, and McNally, of Meadowhill Drive, Stourbridge, both pleaded guilty to producing a class B drug. Smith was jailed for 54 weeks and McNally for 45 weeks. Pearce, of Compton Court, Kinver, admitted allowing his premises to be used as a cannabis factory and was jailed for 48 weeks.

Judge John Warner said the enterprise was 'a professional cannabis set-up.'

Tarby is at the town hall

VETERAN comedian Jimmy Tarbuck is to perform at Dudley Town Hall on October 24.

Audiences will be treated to anecdotes from Tarby that range from school days with John Lennon to playing golf with Bing Crosby. The entertainer was a host of recently revived 1960s TV variety show Sunday Night at the London Palladium. Doors open 8pm and tickets cost £23. Call the box office on 0870 320 7000.

Gutted — the popular village phone box library following the arson attack

Village aim to restore library in phone box

A CALLOUS arsonist stopped to admire their wicked ork, videoing one of the world's smallest libraries as it burned.

A grainy CCTV image showed the vandal taking out their phone and capturing the moment as they destroyed the phone box book exchange in Clent, near Stourbridge. A car nearby was also set on fire.

The charred remains of hundreds of books lay inside the blackened skeleton of the familiar red phone box on Bromsgrove Road, celebrated as one of the world's smallest libraries. A fundraising drive is under way so that the phone box library, destroyed in July, can be restored.

Paul Timmins, Chairman of the Clent History Society, said: "It was a pointless act of destruction, there's no gain for the person that did it, and the consequence for the rest of the village is that it's created a lot of upset. But in one respect it has created a bit of community spirit because people are discussing it."

Cheques made payable to the Clent History Society can be sent to Yew Tree Cottage, Bromsgrove Road, Holy Cross, Clent, Worcestershire, DY9 9QF.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Survey to give residents a say

BOSSES will be asking residents' for their views with a telephone survey.

Deputy leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Pete Lowe, visited the Dudley Council Plus call centre to show his support for the survey.

He said: "We genuinely want to get involved with local people and let residents have their say on local issues.

The five minute survey will allow residents to tell the council whether they are satisfied with services and rate the value for money of those services.

Help and advice to quit smoking

HELP will be on hand for smokers wanting to quit during a series of events.

The Dudley Stop Smoking Service is supporting the Stoptober campaign. Staff will be offering help and advice from 10am to 2.30pm at Tesco, Birmingham Road, Dudley, on Tuesday; Asda, Brierley Hill, on September 25; Tesco Stourbridge on September 30; Cornbow Shopping Centre, Halesowen on October 1. Nearly 400 signed up for Stoptober in Dudley last year.

Temporary lights on a busy route

ROADWORKS on a busy road in Oldbury are likely to lead to traffic problems.

Causeway Green Road, near Birchley Island and junction two of the M5, will this week be subject to temporary 24 hour traffic lights as National Grid carry out work on gas pipes. The road will then be closed at this weekend too as work is carried out by Sandwell Council. Work is due to end by Monday.

MP unveils new school facilities

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin unveiled the new art studio and sports courts on Friday at Dormston School on Mill Bank.

He also congratulated the new headteacher Ben Stitchman, who started in September, after the percentage of students with five A*-C grades in GCSEs increased to 58 per cent from 40 per cent in 2012.

Aldi extension OK

PLANS to revamp the entrance of a Black Country supermarket have been approved.

Bosses at Aldi in Dudley have been granted permission for an extension to the building in Saltwells Road.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

AS we speak I am contemplating taking a hammer to my mobile phone and smashing it to pieces. A primitive form of repair, I concede but yet again it has decided to wake me an hour earlier than I intended by deciding to do a spot of spontaneous photography.

Now you might well be asking why I simply don't switch the thing off for the night. But unfortunately, it doesn't respond terribly well to that, either. It usually sulks for about half an hour in the morning, locks itself up at inopportune moments, makes videos of me shouting at it, and fails to receive calls or text messages.

Four or five attempts to switch the thing on and off, a bit of light cursing, and it's usually right as rain. But to be honest, I can do without the hassle first thing in the morning.

I suppose I shouldn't really complain too much. I bought the thing about five years ago, which seems to be the shelf life of modern technology, and I only paid £30 for it, so I suppose I have got my money's worth. And today it did wait until dawn before it decided to disturb my sleep. On previous occasions it has decided to wake me at two or three in the morning, lighting up the room and making a not particularly pleasant record of my snoring.

Nevertheless, I suppose it is time to get a new one, but if I'm honest I will be a little sad to see the back of my battered pay-as-you-go Nokia. Partly, because I will have to learn how to operate a new phone, and yet I still haven't really got to grips with the old one. I've had the thing half a decade, and I still don't know what 'connectivity' or 'configurations' actually mean. And what will actually happen if I tinker with these buttons? Some things are best left alone.

But the real reason why I want to stick with my trusty Nokia as long as possible comes in the form of the new iPhone 6 , which comes out on Friday.

Now I suspect the majority of you know as little about this as I do, but apparently it is a little bigger than the iPhone 5, and will cost £549. And people have been camping out in London's Regent's Park just to be first in the queue.

How tragic is that? People spending a week living in a tent just so they can pay more than a monkey for a telephone. Which does pretty much the same thing as my thirty-quid Nokia.

Now there are no shortage of people who laugh at my phone. They tell me it is outdated, unreliable, and about as cool as Jeremy Clarkson. And of course, they're totally right.

But you know what? I own it. Whereas, with all the nerdy types coveting the new iPhone 6 and tying themselves up with long and expensive contracts, it is the phone that owns them.

More curious items in the Holly Hall collection

Jake with a bike once used by chimney sweep Joe Black

The future of commuting that failed — a Sinclair C5

Collection is on show to visitors

CHARLIE BENTON takes a look at Dudley man Jake Pearson's collection of curiosities and bric-a-brac

HE has everything from 14th century Arabic coins and one armed bandit slot machines to butcher's bikes and a Sinclair C5 in his personal collection which has taken five years to accumulate.

Now Jake Pearson is opening up his memorabilia of 1,000 different curios to members of the public to help raise funds for a good cause.

The72-year-old from Dudley decided to start collecting the items at his home on a whim.

He said: "I woke up one morning and recalled the old cast iron range fire grate we used to have when I was a child so I decided to go out and buy one.

"I found and bought one that was originally from Himley Hall and it all started from there really."

Mr Pearson said he collects things that he remembers from his childhood that he believes will strike a chord with others.

The items are stored in a dedicated 60ft veranda and extension outside of his Holly Hall home with all of the items on display.

"They have similar things at the Black Country Living Museum and such but why should people pay however much a ticket costs there when they can see better items here?" Jake said.

Hospital

Mr Pearson said people are welcome to view his items and if they want to they can make a donation which Mr Pearson said will go towards Russell's Hall Hospital cancer ward.

He said he is constantly on the lookout for memorabilia to add to his collection and more than anything would love to add a fairground ride as a garden decoration. He made a similar appeal for people to come along and view his collection a few years ago when it was smaller but he did not get the reaction he was hoping for.

Dudley collector Jake Pearson in his garage stuffed full of memorabilia

"My collection has grown since I last made the appeal and I have more interesting things for people to come along and see," he added. "I have quite a collection of bicycles now which I think are fantastic — I have an old butcher's bike, a baker's bike, a tandem bicycle in showroom condition and a penny farthing."

Although his wife is supportive of his collection, to a point, Jake said she mainly just 'gets on with it' as she respects his hobby. Between them they have three children, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mr Pearson said that he believes young children will love the collection as his own great-grandchildren often come round to see the items he has on show.

"They do like to mess around with the things so sometimes I do have to watch them with the rarer items," he said. "They do seem to enjoy the one armed bandit slot machines and will spend ages playing with them."

Although his expansive collection only started growing to the size it is now over the past few years Jake said he has always been fond of old things.

He said: "I have often collected or bought older things, I have even been through a period of owning classic cars which I loved."

Over the years hehas owned both a classic Aston Martin and Jaguar.

One of the most curious items he has is an old writing box from a Congregational Sunday school in Brierley Hill presented to a Mr J Holmes around 1807.

Information

Despite going to a number of Sunday schools in Brierley Hill as a child he does not recognise the school and would like some more information on the item.

He said he does not keep track of his spending as he prefers to think more of the viewing appeal and sentimental value of the items.

Although he has thought before about moving the collection from his home and setting up his own museum space, Jake said health issues have prevented him.

An ex-lorry driver, he said that he is not retired but that his failing eyesight has made it impossible to work.

He is proud of his collection, He said: "I've had people come in and they are gobsmacked and think what I have is brilliant. When they come in and they see all the things that I have they are so impressed and it absolutely makes my day.

"I just want people to come out and see these things so they don't go to waste and hopefully a bit of money can be raised for Russells Hall in the process."

People interested in viewing his collection should call him on (01384) 484309.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THE National Health Service will be one of the main battlegrounds for the next election and the West Midlands is going to see some of the fiercest fights.

The scandal of Stafford Hospital has spread out to others, with more patients being taken to Wolverhampton and Walsall for care. The brand of Stafford has been tainted.

Politicians are using it as a stick to beat each other with. The Tories hold it up as an example of why Labour is no longer fit to oversee its own greatest achievement, the NHS itself, while Labour points to the downgrade of Stafford as an example of how the Tories can't be trusted with it.

Stafford itself is a marginal constituency. Conservative Jeremy Lefroy has been campaigning as hard as anyone could for the hospital, but could well be punished if his pleas are falling on deaf ears with his own party.

His Labour opponent Kate Godfrey has already told him to stand down and force a by-election to put Stafford at the top of the agenda. Amid the typical red v blue row, an alternative emerges.

Karen Howells, a founding member of the Support Stafford Hospital campaign, which has been camped out on the lawn of the site to fight the planned downgrade, is standing for the National Health Action party.

It might well be a one-issue party, but in Stafford it also happens that its one issue is the biggest one.

And it would be foolish to write the party off as a wasted vote. One of its founders is Dr Richard Taylor, who was elected as an independent in Wyre Forest not once but twice.

Neither Labour nor the Conservatives can afford to write Stafford off. There is still little between them in the opinion polls and the key marginals that changed hands in 2010 are the ones that will determine who gets to run the country from 2015.

Leave it to the voting public to decide how much MPs get paid and the answer would probably be 'nothing'.

So they were all prepared for grumbling over the recommended hike in their pay. Simply put, they don't deserve it at a time of austerity, particularly when other public servants have endured a pay freeze.

The problem is they didn't decide that they should get it. That was the verdict of the independent body set up to regulate their pay because so many of them couldn't be trusted not to treat the taxpayer like their own personal piggy bank.

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority was created to stop them deciding what they should get. And now it's come to a decision they're being told to intervene and overrule it, which sort of defeats the whole object.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Romantic folk could make a big myth-take

SCOTLAND is following a haunting and alluring myth, that of freedom from the yoke of English oppression. It is bred into them to believe that rule from England is a bad thing. They relish a fight for freedom.

Like the Pied Piper, Salmond is playing a magical tune, appealing to the deepest emotions of Scots.

Scotland enjoys no less freedom that anyone else in the UK and to claim that Utopia awaits them just by voting for independence is completely misleading. Voters need to be reminded that here in the real world, if it seems too good to be true, it usually is too good to be true.

First of all, their proposed currency would rely entirely on the state of the British economy, defying the definition of independence. Secondly, they would lose a freedom for which many in the world even now risk their lives — the freedom to live, work and travel unimpeded throughout the U.K. Thirdly, remember the tale of the Pied Piper. Once the door to the cave had closed behind them, an entire generation was lost forever.

Make no mistake, this referendum is not about freedom, it is purely and simply about elevating the importance of the leaders of the SNP.

If they do gain independence, they will soon find that running a country is vastly different to running a region within a country. Are they really up to the task? What happens if they are not? Only time would tell but by then it might be too late.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Cheaper car parks are answer

SO there is to be multi storey car parking in Tower Street, Dudley ,costing £2.5 million and yet a councillor says people aren't using the massive car park in Flood Street which is not a bus ride from the town centre, just a few minutes' walk, if that.

The councillor said, people aren't using Flood Street, yet for some reason he seems to think 250 spaces costing £2.5m will do wonders.

Now, here's a thought! How about having cheaper car parking and perhaps, just perhaps, people may return to a once-thriving town centre.

If it doesn't work at least they would have tried and, if it works, Dudley Council could avoid forking out public money on another white elephant.

Then again, councillors never ask for our thoughts, theirs are always good decisions.

P LOWE
Brierley Hill

Border posts needed to halt Scots invasion

WHEN the idea of Scottish independence came up, I felt quite upset at the very idea. But then ALL the politicians started kowtowing and ffering Scots all sorts of incentives to stay — I hate this idea.

I can understand the panic from Scottish MPs, they would obviously lose their jobs if Scotland voted to leave the UK. But the other MPs should not be bowing and scrapping, don't offer them money to stay. When India, Pakistan and others wanted to leave the British Empire, for some odd reason we agreed to pay them money every year to help their very poor people. After more than 50 years these people are still no better off, so do not pay the Scots either.

If they get all these extra concessions, then, England, Wales and Northern Island should get the same. If they leave, then all the students in England Wales and Northern Ireland should get free University educations. Portsmouth and Southampton could get Trident and ship building. We could in reality be better off. Then we should build a number of border posts so, when the Scots realised what a mistake they had made, we would not be inundated by thousands of them coming over the border.

C HOWELLS
Stourbridge

Hands off free help for elderly

I WAS furious to read of the proposals by a commission established by The King's Fund that the elderly should be stripped of the free TV licence, winter fuel allowance and free prescriptions.

I thought they were another Government-funded group but they are in fact a charity which offers, for a fee, to develop companies' capabilities. Recent positions offered on their web page quoted salaries between £38 to £46,000 – not bad for a charity.

So you would think for a charity who could offer the brain power to transform the performances of companies would have more to offer than suggest increasing public contributions to help the NHS, which they claim the old can afford.

This government would have adequate money to fund the NHS if they stopped immigration, stop overseas aid and stop fighting other countries' wars.

D BODLEY
Bilbrook

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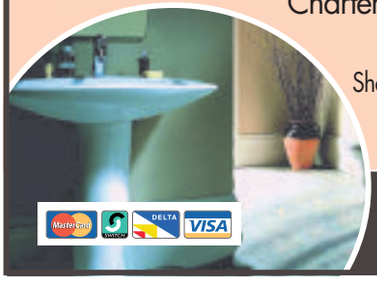

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Dance class talents are showcased

Grange E TG

GRANGE 'E' Guild held their monthly meeting at Grange Court, Stourbridge on September 2. Chairman Hazel Smith read the minutes from the previous meeting which were approved and signed.

Treasurer Jill Attwood gave an up-to-date financial report. Marlene O'Hanlon informed members that all speakers had been booked for 2015 and that items for the shoe box collection was going well.

Chris Holton reported that items for the food bank were still coming in on a regular basis.

With all business completed the evening continued with a Harvest Supper.

This was preceded by a programme of Irish dancing provided by a local dancing school. This proved to be very entertaining.

The five dance group members were very talented and had won many awards.

Food for the supper was all prepared and served by committee members.

The evening was a huge success and thanks were given to the committee for all their hard work.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, when the speaker will be Mrs Dowthwaite giving a talk entitled 'Getting Ready for Christmas'.

Anyone interested in joining the guild or to come along as a visitor, telephone the secretary Jean Williams at (01384) 832439 for further information.

Couple give a guide to dog training

Highgate Ladies Probus Club

Guests Mary and Alan with Florence and Autumn

AT the meeting on September 8, chairman Pauline Heyden welcomed puppy walkers Mary and Alan Reeves who gave an enjoyable and informative talk on the ups and downs of training puppies who go on to be guide dogs.

Members were informed that the lifetime cost of a guide dog is approximately £50,000 and this is raised through sponsorship, etc, as the guide dog service receives no government funding.

Mr and Mrs Reeves brought along Florence and six-months-old puppy Autumn. Both dogs were given lots of fuss which was received with obvious pleasure.

Chocolates for quiz winners

Kingswinford TG

CHAIRMAN Enid Fennell welcomed one new member to the September meeting and also welcomed those returning after various unavoidable absences.

Those who went on the canal boat excursion agreed they had enjoyed very much and suggested a return journey in the spring to watch the ducklings and enjoy a cream tea.

Tickets were on sale for the annual community centre raffle. Members were reminded of the Federation harvest luncheon on October 1. Deposits were also taken for the Christmas Luncheon. Sylvia and Anita offered to wash up, Barbara White was thanked for bring the flowers.

The various sections announced the dates of their next sessions. The ladies then proceeded to the serious business of the evening, namely the Harvest celebration. Two Harvest hymns were sang and Ann Rogers and Margaret Farmer read suitable poems. A Prayer of thanksgiving was said and the President said Grace.

Members puzzled over Sue Wilson's quiz ,with varying measures of success but everyone was declared winners and received a chocolate as a prize. Raffle winners were Enid Fennell and Joyce Robins.

The next meeting is on October 13 in the Community Centre in High Street with a talk on 'History For Dummies'.

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'No other family should have to go through this'

A GRIEVING mother has called for more to be done to help addicts who are leaving prison to make sure they don't go back to drugs.

Beverley Bailey was speaking at Smethwick Council House after the inquest into the death of her son, Jason, the day after he was released from prison. The 34-year-old died at his mother's home in Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen, on June 4 after overdosing on heroin.

Mrs Bailey said her son was released from prison following a 10-week stint for shop theft as having no fixed abode, and with around £100 he had earned from working while in prison.

Jason Bailey — his mother says more must be done to help addicts

Concerns

She said: "If a known heroin addict is released onto the streets with nowhere to go and £100 in his pocket, it's not rocket science to work out what he's going to do with the money."

She said she wanted to make people aware of the lack of support given to drug addicts when they are released from prison, while Mr Robin Balmain, senior coroner for the Black Country, said he would write to the prison service to express his concerns.

Mrs Bailey – a former prison officer – has written to her MP, James Morris, about her son's case. She said: "If one good thing can come from this then it is that another family doesn't have to go through what we have had to."

She told the inquest that she had been to visit her son a week before his release to tell him he was not allowed back to his parents' house. However, when Mr Bailey was released on June 3 he arrived at her house later that day, but she told him to go away. He came back half an hour later and was sobbing so she let him in.

"I told him if he was going to live herehe was going to do as I say and he had to ask to do everything except flush the toilet," she said.

"We spent a wonderful afternoon in the garden. It was like we had our son back. He went to bed and I went upstairs around about midnight and his door was wide open and his television was on. He never used to leave his door open so I thought he was finally being open with us."

She found him lying on the floor and called the ambulance. She said ambulance staff found her son with a syringe still in his leg.

Mr Balmain said Mr Bailey had 579 microgrammes of morphine, derived from heroin and methadone, per litre of blood. He recorded the cause of death as heroin and morphine toxicity.

He added: "This is a tragedy that I am seeing all too often. I do take on board what this young man's mother has told me about the situation on release from prison, which seems to me to be a recipe for disaster. I have the authority to bring these matters to the attention of the relevant authorities and I propose to write to the prison service."

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Don't be disappointed - choose Choices Windows

The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

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Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today, He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 20 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for "advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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Channel 4 show created a terrible impression of town

THE WAY I SEE IT

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

'It's my job to stand up for the decent, hard-working and law-abiding majority in Dudley who will be just as appalled as I was'

DID you see Cops and Robbers on Channel Four last week? The programme featured two habitual criminals from Dudley and it created a terrible impression of our town.

You can find people like that anywhere and I wish they'd filmed it somewhere else.

I think it's my job to stand up for the decent, hard-working and law-abiding majority in Dudley who will be just as appalled as I was at their behaviour. The best way to prevent crime is to lock them up.

I was delighted to open a new art studio and sports courts at Dormston School in Sedgley last week. The school is getting these new facilities thanks to the hard work of new Head Teacher Ben Stitchman and his colleagues.

Two years ago just 40 per cent of pupils got five A-Cs at GCSE and 35 per cent at GCSE including English and Maths. This year 58 per cent got five A-Cs at GCSE and 53 per cent at GCSE including English and Maths.

With the right support, young people from Dudley can do just as well as those anywhere else. Let's make education our number one priority in Dudley to bring better schools, better skills and better jobs to the area.

Last week I took the campaign to save the Seven Stars in Sedgley to Parliament. I'm backing local campaigners battling to protect the pub after Morrisons announced plans to turn it into a supermarket.

I'm very concerned about the loss of a popular, profitable and well-run local pub. I'm also worried about the loss of parking spaces for the school, traffic turning into a shop on what is a busy road and the impact that a new supermarket would have on businesses in Sedgley town centre.

That's why I stood up in the House of Commons and called on Ministers to support talks between Marston's, Morrisons and local campaigners on the future of the pub. Ministers agreed with me that talks should go ahead immediately, putting even more pressure on Marston's and Morrisons to get round the table and secure the pub's future.

I've already written to Marston's and to Morrisons urging them to come and listen to local people, I've urged the council to investigate whether they can prevent it being used for a supermarket. I want them to make the pub an 'Asset of Community Value' to provide further protection.

I want the Government to change planning rules so pubs can't be sold off or demolished without planning permission. That way residents will get a say on what happens to their local.

Twenty eight pubs are shutting across the country every week. Let's prevent the Seven Stars being another one. Please sign the on-line petition at: http://www.change.org/p/marstons-plc-keep-the-seven-stars-gospel-end-sedgley

What a privilege it was to go to Bert Bissell's Bible Class, which now meets at Dixon's Green Methodist Church on Sunday.

It's been about a month since a team including Councillor Adam Aston, Deputy Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho, Armed Forces Champion Councillor Dave Tyler and Shaz Saleem tackled Ben Nevis in awful weather in honour of local hero Bert. We've already raised getting on for £4,000 and collected more at the church on Sunday.

I've been overwhelmed by the response to our walk from local people who remember Bert Bissell with such esteem and affection.

It is incredible to think he is such an inspiration to local people that local charities including Action Heart, Guide Dogs, the Children's Unit at Russell's Hall Hospital, the local Royal British Legion, and Black Country Fast Aid to support local ambulanceswill still benefit from his memory. I think that's a brilliant tribute to Bert and all he did for the community in Dudley.

There's been lots in the news again about an MPs' pay rise. I think this increase is completely bonkers and I won't be accepting it. I'm from Dudley and being the town's MP is a huge privilege. It's a well-paid job but I earned more before I was an MP, I'm not in it for the money. Times are tough and when so many local families are struggling, I'll use it to increase my support for good causes in Dudley.

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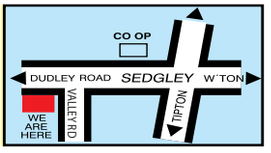

Fixer sent to prison after renting Black Country houses for drug gang

A MAN who rented houses so a drug gang could turn them into cannabis factories, has been jailed.

Mazhar Pathan used a false name, forged documents and cash provided by the gang when dealing with landlords, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Houses involved in the racket included properties at Church Street, Halesowen and Dudley Road, Warley, as well as premises in Wolverhampton and Derby.

Pathan, of Bescot Road, Walsall, who had no previous convictions, pleaded guilty to being concerned in the production of cannabis and money laundering . He was jailed for two years and eight months.

Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, revealed: "The production at the four properties involved the growing of up to 800 plants with a potential crop of 44 kilograms of skunk cannabis."

The 28-year-old 'fixer,' using the name Mohammed Ali, paid five months of the £500-a-month rent in advance on the Heath Town address in August 2012. Police found it had been converted into a drug factory with 21 heat lamps and 70 plants when it was raided.

The defendant forked out £1,100 cash in May 2013 to rent the property in Halesowen which had 152 plants under cultivation in three rooms when officers swooped three months later. A Vietnamese 'gardener' tending the crop was jailed for 18 months.

The slip that cost Pathan his liberty involved the premises in Warley which had been transformed into a 312-plant cannabis factory. When an attempt was made to break into the property – possibly made by a rival gang – he reported the suspected burglary to police using his own mobile phone.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said Pathan had been in need of cash having taken out a loan to build an extension at his home but then was made redundant. Mr Mann, added: "He found himself in a fix and acted wholly out of character. The offence was financially driven. He was being paid up to £3,000 to rent the property but had nothing to do with the growing of the cannabis."

Recorder Geoffrey Kelly told him: "You had a crucial role. The criminal enterprise could not have operated without the properties provided by you."

Picnic marks year of scheme

FAMILIES of children with disabilities from across the West Midlands gathered to mark a first anniversary of a project helping to provide respite.

Barnardo's Midlands Overnight Short Breaks service provides children with disabilities and their families regular, planned overnight short breaks. Bosses say it gives youngsters the chance to enjoy time away from home, try new activities and make new friends.

A picnic to celebrate the service's first year anniversary was held at Haden Hill Park. Spokeswoman Stephanie Cummins said: "Our first year has been a great success and we have work with around 90 children and their families." To find out more about the service call 0121 550 1222.

A-maize-ing poppy tribute

A stunning aerial shot of Sandwell Valley's maize maze

IT is a spectacular tribute to those who died in the First World War.

Nine acres of winding hedged passageways shaped into a poppy, as seen from the air in this stunning picture.

The bird's eye view of the attraction was revealed by Sandwell Council which is urging more families to visit the new maize maze.

Situated at Forge Mill Farm, the maze opened last month and is the first of its kind in Sandwell.

Mayor

It was shaped as a poppy to commemorate the start of the Great War's hundredth anniversary this year.

The attraction was opened by Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Derek Rowley.

He said: "It is a fantastic win-win idea.

"The kids can enjoy it over the summer and then the animals at the farm will be fed from it later in the year."

Visitors are advised to allow an hour and a half to complete the maze. It is open daily from 10am to 4.30pm, with last admission at 3.30pm.

Entry to Forge Mill Farm is free. Admission to the maze is £3 for adults and £1.50 for children and over 60s. Family tickets are also available.

Run is all set to be best yet

A TOTAL of more than 17,000 runners have signed up to take the start line at a major road race, as organisers predict a record turnout.

Organisers say the Bupa Great Birmingham Run is odds on to the biggest in the half marathon's seven year history.

Double Commonwealth gold medal winner Jodie Stimpson will be an official starter. The 25-year-old from Oldbury, who won both individual and team triathlon golds for England at the Glasgow games, will be at the start line to see off those taking part.

Thousands have already pledged to take part in the 13.1 mile run on October 19, including a record number of entries for both the Business Challenge and Junior and Mini races.

Organisers hope to beat the record 20,000 runners who took part in the 2013 run. Although entries for the 2014 run have been increased to 22,000, organisers are advising would-be entrants to sign up now to avoid disappointment.

The Bupa Great Birmingham Run is the second biggest half marathon in the UK. Visit www.greatrun.org/birmingham for details.

More than 1,300 stray dogs are put down over a year

MORE than 1,300 stray and abandoned dogs were put down across the West Midlands in 12 months.

The annual Dogs Trust report has revealed 1,396 animals picked up by councils in the region were destroyed between April 2013 and March 2014.

After being collected by council wardens across the Black Country and Staffordshire they are usually handed over to kennels who provide care.

Dogs which are in poorly condition or have behavioural difficulties face being put down, although legally those which are not collected within seven days can be destroyed.

Neighbour

The statistics, released as part of a Stray Dogs Survey carried out by Dogs Trust, show there was a fall of abandoned and stray animals in the West Midlands from 19,195 the year before to 18,798. This matches with a national decrease from 111,986 to 110,675.

Despite this, 31 per cent of dog owners are still losing their dog at least once in the animal's lifetime.

The survey found 64 per cent do not know who is responsible for caring for strays with 42 per cent saying they would get in touch with a family member or neighbour rather than a council.

Clarissa Baldwin OBE, chief executive of the Dogs Trust, said: "The number of instances of straying on our streets is declining but we still have a significant job to do when it comes to raising awareness about responsible dog ownership.

"Owners are unsure of who to reach out to and how much time they have to recover their dog should he or she go missing."

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment and culture at Dudley Council, said: "Stray dogs found by Dudley Council remain in our care for seven days and if owners do not come forward in this time the dogs are relocated to City Dogs in Stoke on Trent.

"City Dogs then takes decisions on issues such as re-homing and veterinary care for the dogs."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Club prepares for its real ale festival

MORE than 1,000 pints will be sunk by drinkers this weekend as part of a beer festival.

Tipton Conservative Club is holding its second beer festival of the year.

Angela and Martin Mullany took over the club in December and are holding the festival to coincide with the annual Black Country Canal Festival, also taking place this weekend.

The beer festival will kick off on Friday evening and run straight through until Sunday night. The club has nine-gallon firkins of 13 different real ales and two ciders to get through.

Mrs Mullany said: "This is the second festival we have held this year and we are hoping this one will be even more successful than the last."

Pair in court after car is dismantled

TWO men have been charged with receiving stolen goods after a car stolen from outside a club in Dudley was found dismantled at a Willenhall lock up.

A Skoda Octavia was stolen from the entrance of the rifle club in Dudley in February. Police discovered the vehicle in parts a couple of weeks later at a unit on Ezekiel Lane, Short Heath. Two men were arrested on suspicion of receiving stolen goods.

Tony Cook, aged 30, of Stroud Avenue, Willenhall, and 29-year-old Gregory Taylor, of Spills Meadow, Upper Gornal, were each charged with three counts of receiving stolen goods and are due to appear before Wolverhampton magistrates on Wednesday.

Family insist stabbing attack was predictable

RELATIVES of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins, who was killed in a random attack by a paranoid schizophrenic, have spoken out following a report which identified failings by the police, prison service and NHS.

By Mark Andrews

Christina, 16, was stabbed on a bus in Birmingham by Philip Simelane while she was on her way to Leasowes High School in March 2013.

The report by Birmingham CrossCity Clinical Commissioning Group said her death could have been prevented were it not for 'missed opportunities' by the authorities.

Simelane, 23, was sentenced to an indeterminate hospital order after pleading guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He had a history of mental illness but had been released unsupervised from prison three months before the attack.

Christina's great-uncle Chris Melia welcomed the publication of the report by Dr Alison Reed, which made 51 recommendations calling for improved sharing of mental health information between agencies. However, he said the family disagreed with Dr Reed's conclusion that nobody could have predicted the random attack on Christina, which took place on a bus in Hagley Road, Edgbaston.

"The report said that Christina's death was preventable but not predictable, but we believe it was also predictable, we believe that very strongly," he said.

In a statement, Christina's family added: "The report clearly shows that long-term failings by members of the police, prison service and medical staff effectively to deal with and treat Philip Simelane during 11 years of a developing mental illness, culminated in a series of mismanaged opportunities throughout the 14 months leading up to Christina's death on a bus in Birmingham."

Mr Melia added that Simelane's mother had called police 21 times in the months leading up to the attack because of her son.

"There were lots of other people who said how gravely ill this chap was but somehow they didn't seem to find it necessary to do anything," said Mr Melia. "He had assaulted a police officer and he had assaulted his mother a number of times. He said he was going to stab and kill her. There are so many missed opportunities it's unbelievable."

GOLDbury celebrates its Games heroes

Golden girl Jodie Stimpson with fellow Oldbury sports stars Mikail Huggins, Jaswant Shergill and Chinu

IT is not very often you get three Commonwealth Games winners from one town. So when Oldbury was turned into GOLDbury for the day to mark the achievements of the area's athletes, hundreds of people turned out to celebrate.

The town centre was transformed into a mini sports arena, a bus stop was sprayed gold and road signs renamed in honour of their achievements.

Triathlete Jodie Stimpson, who bagged two gold medals at the Games in Glasgow, took centre stage along with fellow gold winner guide runner Mikail Huggins amd bronze-medal winning wrestler Chinu.

They were also celebrating the success of weightlifter Jaswant Shergill who also hails from Oldbury and set a personal best at the games.

And all four said they were overwhelmed by the number of people who had turned out to salute them at the weekend.

Oldbury-born Jodie said: "It's been breathtaking. I didn't expect that amount of people to come out and see us.

"It meant such a lot and I was very humbled by it. It seems the whole of Sandwell has backed us.

"I hope all of us who took part in the Commonwealth Games have gone on to inspire a new generation of athletes and that there will be lots of young Sandwell stars among them."

Jodie, who is aged 25 and a former Oldbury Swimming and Triathlon Club member, won gold medals in the solo and mixed triathlon this summer.

Jobs set to go as closure is announced

JOBS are being axed as aerospace firm Timken revealed it will shut its factory in Wolverhampton.

The company, which manufactures bearings, plans to close its site in Upper Villiers Street, Blakenhall, by the end of 2015 shedding 84 jobs under plans announced by the US-based firm.

Bosses said that the number of orders it was receiving was dwindling because it predominantly supplied parts for older aircraft. But it will continue to honour its current orders and could take on new work from existing customers until the factory closes next year.

It is a blow to the city which has been promoting itself as a specialist base for the aerospace industry. It comes after Caterpillar-run Turner Powertrain Systems on Racecourse Road, Dunstall, announced it was to axe more than 200 jobs.

Plant manager Todd Laquerre said: "It is always unfortunate and obviously we announce this with a heavy heart but our production focus has narrowed to a niche of legacy aerospace bearings leaving us with an inability to grow.

"We are speaking with staff and the unions. We will honour all existing orders and continue to work with the customers to meet their needs."

The Wolverhampton arm of the company can trace its roots back to Fischer Bearings which came to the city in 1936.

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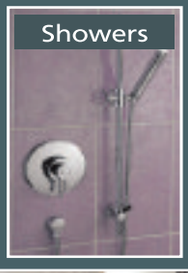
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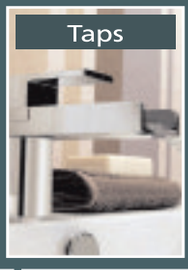
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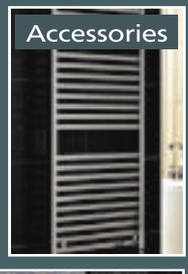
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3rd - 7th	WEYMOUTH & DELIGHT DORSET T & T	£225.00
7th - 10th	WESTON SUPER MARE CARNIVAL	£185.00
9th - 10th	BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS	£99.50
12th -14th	THURSFORD XMAS SPECTACULAR	£235.00
15th - 16th	CHRISTMAS AT CHATSWORTH HOUSE	£109.50
17th -21st	BOURNEMOUTH PRE-XMAS ACTIVITIES	£249.50
22nd - 23rd	WINCHESTER MARKET & BLENHEIM PALACE	£109.50
24th - 28th	NEWQUAY & DOC MARTIN COUNTRY	£235.00
26th - 28th	THURSFORD XMAS SPECTACULAR	£235.00
29th - 30th	YORK DICKENSIAN MARKET	£99.50
DECEMBER		
1st - 5th	CHARMING SIDMOUTH PRE-XMAS	£299.50
2nd - 5th	BRUGGE & BRUSSELS CHRISTMAS MARKETS	£235.00
6th - 7th	LINCOLN CHRISTMAS MARKET	£99.50
6th - 7th	CHRISTMAS AT CHATWORTH HOUSE	£109.50
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12th	IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, DUXFORD	£39.50	£37.50
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22nd	BLENHEIM PALACE XMAS & CHRISTMAS LUNCH	£49.50	£49.00
23rd	CHATSWORTH HOUSE & CHRISTMAS MARKET	£45.00	£42.50
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26th	PEAK DISTRICT CRUISE & TURKEY SANDWICHES	£41.00	£40.00
27th	WADDESDON MANOR WINTER WONDERLAND	£44.00	£42.50
28th	WORCESTER XMAS MARKET & 3 COURSE LUNCH	£41.00	£39.50
30th	XMAS AT HAMPTON COURT & 3 COURSE LUNCH	£59.50	£57.50
DECEMBER			
1st	CHESTER XMAS MARKET or CHESHIRE OAKS	£24.00	£23.00
2nd	MYSTERY DAY OUT & LUNCH	£35.00	£32.50
3rd	ROCKINGHAM CASTLE CHRISTMAS TIME 1849	£41.00	£39.50
4th	SALFORD QUAYS VICTORIAN XMAS MARKET	£26.00	£25.00
5th	XMAS AT TATTON PARK & 3 COURSE XMAS LUNCH	£45.00	£44.00
8th	BATH CHRISTMAS MARKET	£26.00	£25.00
9th	WINDSOR CASTLE DRESSED FOR A ROYAL XMAS	£45.00	£42.50
10th	XMAS AT KEW GARDENS & AFTERNOON TEA	£55.00	£52.50
10th	XMAS AT ALTHORP HOUSE & AFTERNOON TEA	£59.50	£59.50
11th	NATIONAL ARBORETUM & 3 COURSE XMAS LUNCH	£55.00	£52.50
13th	LONDON CHRISTMAS SHOPPING	£27.00	£26.00
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17th	CHATSWORTH HOUSE CHRISTMAS SCENES	£41.00	£39.50
20th	HYDE PARK LONDON WINTER WONDERLAND	£27.00	£26.00
JANUARY 2015			
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Rudy's boys rock Rep with laughter

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

Rudy's Rare Records, Birmingham Rep

LENNY Henry may have given up stand-up comedy in favour of acting but there are still plenty of laughs in this warm-hearted story about three generations of the same family working in a struggling Handsworth record shop.

Dudley-born Henry and writer Danny Robins worked together on four series of Rudy's Rare Records on BBC Radio 4 and have finally, and triumphantly, turned the story into a joyous and exuberant play. It won a standing ovation at the Rep.

The clash between father and son has long been a rich source for drama and comedy, think Steptoe & Son. Despite the bickering, one feels the affection from Lenny Henry's divorcee son and failed actor Adam who has come home to look after his elderly dad Rudy and his chaotic vinyl emporium.

However, their ongoing war of words allows the script to be peppered with dozens of choice one-liners. These include Rudy's dismissal of golf as "cricket for people who can't run" and Adam telling his father: "I'm not taking parenting advice from a man who blu-tacked an ashtray onto my pram."

Lenny Henry is in full-on loveable mode as the sarcastic yet dutiful son, eyes rolling in exasperation as his father berates the developers who want to demolish his shop over their 'genital friction' (gentrification) of the area.

Larrington Walker is superb as Rudy, the hip-swiveling pensioner with a liking for tall tales, buxom ladies, Guinness and some colourful Caribbean cussing. But he meets his match in old pal Clifton (Jeffery Kissoon, clearly relishing his role) and girlfriend laundrette boss Doreen (Lorna Gayle) who insists she is for more than "naughtiness and clean underpants." Young actors Jovian Wade, as Rudy's rapping grandson, and Natasha Godfrey, as Birmingham's only Jamaican goth, give solid support.

The poignant scene in which three generations join in singing A Change Is Gonna Come was pure magic — the other lump in the throat moment being when Clifton tells Rudy when he says son Adam has never liked him: "He doesn't like you, he loves you."

The first act is a little long at 90 minutes and the second is mostly given over to musical performances during a 'Rudestock' reggae benefit concert for the shop. But if you have nostalgia for proper record shops and classic reggae tunes from the 1960s and 70s, Rudy's message is for you.

It continues at Birmingham Rep until Saturday, September 20.

Lenny Henry and Natasha Godfrey in Rudy's Rare Records at Birmingham Rep

Truckers raise money for organ transplants

Some of the Black Country charity convoy's 60 lorry drivers park up and join cheering crowds in the street

HORNS blared and crowds cheered as more than 40 trucks took to the streets of the Black Country to raise funds to help people who need organ transplants.

The huge convoy, which weighed in excess of 1,500 tons, set off from Hilton Park Services and passed through five Black Country centres before arriving at the Kingfisher Club in Wall Heath.

At its peak, the fleet measured a mile in length and featured more than 60 vehicles, as cars and vans joined in.

Crowds gathered to cheer the drivers on during their 24-mile trip through Wolverhampton, Bilston, West Bromwich, Oldbury and Dudley. The event raised more than £1,200 for the Liver Foundation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Organiser Andrew Day said the campaign was inspired by his wife Rachel, who underwent a life-saving kidney transplant on Christmas Day in 2006.

"If more people registered to become organ donors then more people could survive," said Mr Day, aged 42, of Priory Road, Dudley. "Getting so many trucks out on the road was our way of doing something big to let everyone know how vital it is that more of us donate organs," he added.

Mr Day led the convoy in the 44-ton Volvo truck he drives for WK Edwards in Russells Hall.

All the drivers work for firms based in the West Midlands, and each contributed to the cause while additional funds were generated through a series of auctions.

Mr Day added: "People have been incredibly generous. I'd like to say a big thanks to everyone who got involved."

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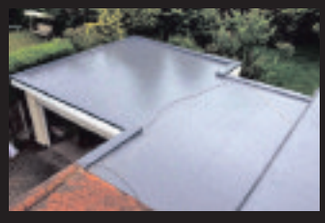

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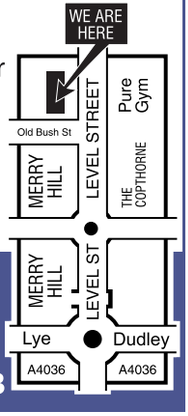

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman is held in drugs crackdown

A WOMAN from Wordsley has been arrested in a police crackdown on drugs in the borough.

Officers swooped on High Street, Brierley Hill, as part of investigations last week.

West Midlands Police said the raid had been executed following concerns from raised by local residents.

A 21-year-old woman from Wordsley was arrested on suspicion of supplying drugs and obstructing a officer.

Police also arrested a 25-year-old man on suspicion of conspiracy to supply drugs, possession with intent to supply and possessing a dangerous dog.

A quantity of drugs and a dog were seized during the police operation.

100-mile bike ride for war centenary

A FIVE-MAN team, including three firefighters, have cycled more than 100 miles – one for every year since the outbreak of the First World War.

On the ride were 57-year-old Dudley watch commander Brian Morris, from Gornal, 41-year-old firefighter Matthew Wagstaff, of Stourbridge, 42-year-old welder Leigh Blandford, of Wordsley, 68-year-old retired BT engineer Ivan Steadman, from Wordsley, and David Antcliff, 41, of Grosvenor Road, Gornal.

The ride was in aid of the Chris Westwood Charity, which helps children with disabilities and raised around £1,300.

Donate at www.everyclick.com/ride-red100

Foundry firm wants to attract more youngsters

A BLACK Country foundry may take on an extra shift because of growing demand for its high quality castings.

Joint managing director of family-run Thomas Dudley, Martin Dudley, said the company was currently taking on nine new people in management to gear up for the move.

"We are getting busier and busier and it looks like by November we may have to put an extra shift on to keep up," said Mr Dudley.

He said the new managers, including a foundry manager, needed to be trained up ready for then.

"We are not taking on any new shop floor staff immediately, but if we are still as busy as we think we are going to be then we will be recruiting and taking on double figures," added Mr Dudley.

People interested in the management posts can find details on company website www.thomasdudley.co.uk.

The company in Birmingham New Road has just invested £60,000 to create a new quality suite.

Mr Dudley said the old facilities had been outdated and the new laboratory and offices had been equipped with new measuring equipment.

Customer services manager Lorraine Dale, who has just marked 40 years service with the company, was invited to perform the official opening on August 29.

"We have been investing in plant, equipment

By John Corser

and people and our latest investment was in improving quality. We have re-arranged office space to create the new suite.

"When customers now come in we have got a first class suite for them to see what we do," explained Mr Dudley.

The next development will be the opening of a suite which will enable the company to bring in visiting parties, particularly from local schools.

"The visitor suite will be off our meeting rooms with a walkway where people can view the foundry from a safe distance. We hope to have it open within the next three months," added Mr Dudley.

The company, which also has a plastics moulding division, has been manufacturing iron castings since 1920.

It hopes to encourage more youngsters to think about careers in engineering and is backing a new scheme called Careers in the Classroom.

Knights to remember at country fair

Joust a minute, it's the Knights of Middle England on the way to Weston Park

THE highlight of many rural sporting enthusiast's calendar, the Midland Game Fair is back this weekend at Weston Park bringing lots of family entertainment alongside an array of finals in many disciplines, particularly shooting.

This year visitors to the event celebrating country life and held on the Shropshire-Staffordshire border near Shifnal can thrill to a spectacular show by medieval jousters the Knights of Middle England.

They can also witness the Shetland Pony Grand National, the Essex Dog Display Team in action, as well as falconry and heavy horses displays.

Anglers are catered for in the Fishing Village, falconers in the Falconry Village and dog lovers can enjoy the the World Series Gundog Championship Final and terrier and lurcher events.

There will also be lots of stalls selling country clothes and accessories.

For more information on the Midland Game Fair this Saturday and Sunday visit www.midlandgamefair.co.uk or join their Facebook page. Tickets are £20 on the day and free for each under-16 accompanying an adult.

Violent attacks on rise in borough

THE number of violent attacks in Dudley has risen, according to new figures, with police revealing a surge reports of domestic violence.

Between April 1 and June 30 this year, there were 436 violent assaults, leaving people injured, across the borough.

Officers say the amount is higher than the force target of no more than 390 cases. It made up 12 per cent of the total number of crimes recorded in the borough during the three months – which was 3,621. It compared to 371 in the same period last year and 342 the year before.

Initiatives

Only in 2011 was the figure similar, when it was 431. As well as violent crime during this year's period, police were called to 566 cases of criminal damage, 196 burglaries and 51 robberies.

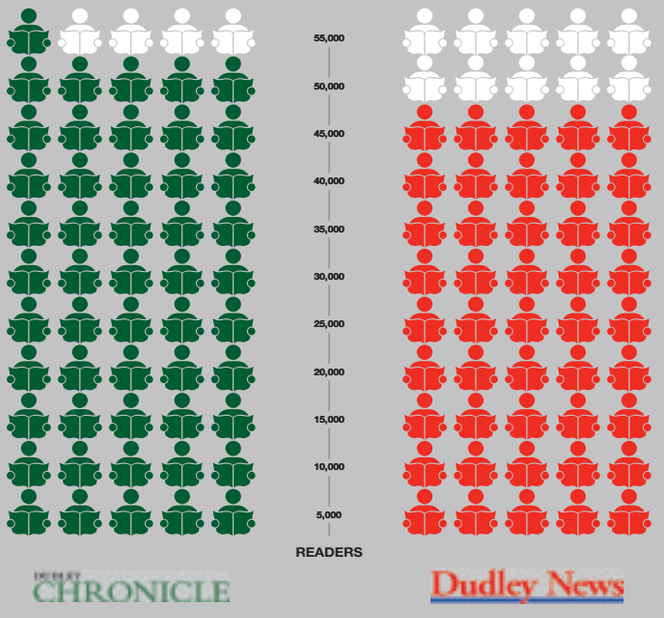
West Midlands Police say the increase in 'violence with injury' cases could be down to more people reporting domestic violence.

But the force says they are working to drive down the number of violence attacks in the borough.

Among the initiatives include visiting pubs and clubs in a bid to combat any potential criminality.

They have also struck up a partnership with teams of volunteers, known as street pastors, who help revellers on nights out.

DUDLEY CHRONICLE



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Open from December 5-9, Clothes Show Live is sure to provide something for everyone as it displays home designer and boutique collections, emerging designers, next generation talent, vintage finds and affordable fashion. With an endless Beauty Hall filled with gift bags and goodies, you can enjoy the ultimate shopping spree.

And you could be there for free. Organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offer 90 pairs of tickets for the opening day of the show – Friday, December 5.

Each year the show welcomes a host of leading names in fashion, and this year's fashion experts are made up of Hilary Alexander OBE, Dame Zandra Rhodes, Henry Holland, and the Clothes Show's original presenter Caryn Franklin MBE.

Your favourite celebs including stars from the world of music and reality TV will be returning to the show. Don't miss Rick Edwards and Neon Jungle as well as your favourites from the cast of TOWIE, Lauren Goodger and Amy Childs, along with the Made in Chelsea stars Jamie Laing and Millie Mackintosh ...and many more!

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The event's highlight is the award-winning ALCATEL ONETOUCH Fashion Theatre, which this year plays homage to the Fashion Capital of 2013, New York! Every ticket includes a dedicated seat to be mesmerised by the vibes of the Big Apple for the world's largest catwalk performance. For more information and tickets go to clothesshowlive.com

TO ENTER

Simply answer the following question

Where is the fashion capital of 2013?

Send entries to Clothes Show competition, Chronicles (editorial) 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Closing date: September 25. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

Competition tickets are for the Friday show date.

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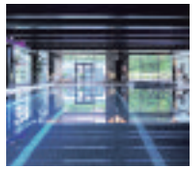
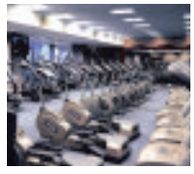

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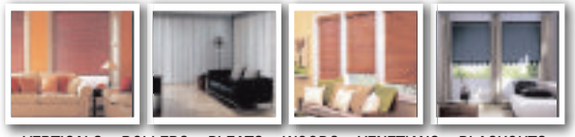

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Black Country Willy Wonka — a view inside the Blue Bird Factory

The Blue Bird building at Hunnington, near Halesowen, a major local employer

A candy cornucopia — just some of the company's products

Curator Clare Weston, who worked at the factory as a teenager, takes a look through the Blue Bird scrapbook

Sweet memories of the Blue Bird brand

LEMON drops, humbugs and chocolate-coated toffees, all boxed in decorative tins with the famous blue bird brand of confectionery.

Decades after the sweets have been peaten, the charm of the Blue Bird tins lives on with many now collector's items. Ranging from designs of British birds to Egyptian tombs, the tinsfrom the former Hunnington-based firm cause fascination.

As part of the Black Country Echoes Festival, the Black Country Living Museum held a presentation of its Blue Bird collection. Visitors heard about the factory's history and the community which revolved around it.

Former workers and their relatives also shared memories of their time at the firm, which began in 1898 when Harry Vincent set up as a confectioner. He built a factory off Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington, ands a garden village for workers in 1927. The factory had a canteen, concert hall and sports pavilion. The site closed in 1998.

MEMORY LANE

By Alex Ross

Clare Weston, museum curator, gave a talk on the collection. The 40-year-old worked as a sweet wrapper at the factory during university holidays in the summers of 1993 and 1994. She said: "When I was there the place was obviously a much smaller operation but there were still around 100 people still working at the site. It was the hardest work I have ever done, working 8am to 4pm and then till 6pm overtime, on our feet all day at the end of the production line. But there was a sense of community and history."

Brenda Osbourn, 68, worked at the factory on and off between 1967 and 1991 after moving into one of the houses built for workers. She still lives there today. Her husband Gerald worked as a caretaker from the age of 14 to 61, while his father Leonard Osbourn was a sugar boiler at the factory. She said: "People were very proud to have worked for the family business."

Joan Hughes worked in the offices from 1964 to 1966 after leaving college in Dudley. She said: "When I was there the firm began modernising and was looking into TV advertising."

Mrs Hughes remembers bus loads of workers being taken to the factory from Dudley.

Historian Julian Hunt, President of Romsley and Hunnington History Society, believes up to 500 people worked at the factory in its heyday.

He said: "The company's tins were iconic. They were designed very carefully to be recognised. A lot of time and effort would have been spent on them, and it paid off. Wholesalers and retailers gained confidence in the brand and gave Blue Bird products prominence in their displays."

The collection of Blue Bird tins and the Harry Vincent Ltd archives were saved by Hull Museum when former parent company Needlers closed down. They were transferred to the Black Country Museum in 2007.

Former Blue Bird toffee maker Christopher Guest, from Hunnington, and former Blue Bird office worker Joan Hughes

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Lots of banter from late start Lee

Lee Mack
Symphony Hall Birmingham

I AM sure Lee Mack must have a gag about trains. I could find him one if not, considering said transport caused us to miss the end of this gig.

Shame as he was just getting going, too.

The funnyman does have a host of jokes about his family, holidays, his sex life and moving house, though. He even revealed which record he lost his virginity to.

Mack promised some new material and did not let the audience down.

But it was with his banter with the crowd – and quick-witted responses - that particularly made the show.

He posed a quiz about punchlines and catchphrases, with surprising answers and revealed why, as a boy growing up in the north, the film Psycho scared him so much: "Having a shower in midweek."

Sadly, we will never know how it all ended, though with the start being delayed, it would have meant he overran. Maybe that could give him a base for a railway joke after all.

Mark Shipp

REVIEWS

Bleak and powerful evocation

The Russian Doctor
The Door Birmingham Rep

CELEBRATED Russian playwright Anton Chekhov was a medical man, which may explain his clinical, approach to his characters. What is not so well known about the author of The Cherry Orchard, Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters and The Seagull, is that before he wrote these plays he had created one remarkable work of non-fiction.

In 1890 Chekhov made a 3,000 mile journey across Siberia to Sakhalin Island, where he interviewed thousands of prisoners. These interviews and his experiences on the island prompted a book that is a powerful evocation of place and suffering. It has led to a bleak and challenging piece of theatre.

The Russian Doctor is a blend of chilling video imagery by 59 Productions, atmospheric music by Johnny Pilcher and Ewan Campbell and physical performance by Andrew Dawson. He gives a softly-spoken description of Chekhov's experiences before contorting his body in a representation of pain by turns surreal, obtuse and disturbing.

Leon Burakowski

Debbie Harry — still performing new songs despite a back catalogue of classic pop

One way or another — Blondie more than greatest hits show

Blondie, 02 Academy Birmingham

CELEBRATING 40 years, Blondie rode the New Wave to success in the 1970s but new songs in their set on Saturday showed they are not resting on their laurels, even if that includes some of the best pop songs... ever.

Thankfully tenth album, Ghosts of Download, has some good dance-orientated numbers, such as Sugar On The Side, which meant the pace didn't drop dramatically due to the hit-new-hit sequence.

Former pin-up Debbie Harry remains glamorous at 69 and wearing a Parallel Lines inspired outfit she was the focus for the band including fellow founder members Chris Stein on guitar and drummer Clem Burke. Her vocal range may be narrower but on Atomic, to quote the song, tonight she was magnificent.

That was one of 11 classic hits in a 90 minute set that kicked off with recently 1D revived hit One Way Or Another. Rapture morphed into a version of The Beastie Boys' Fight For Your Right and The Tide Is High blending into a cover of Dee-Lite's Groove Is In The Heart. The gig reached a climax with disco-pop classic Heart Of Glass before an encore of Union City Blue, War Child and Dreaming left the fans beaming.

Leon Burakowski

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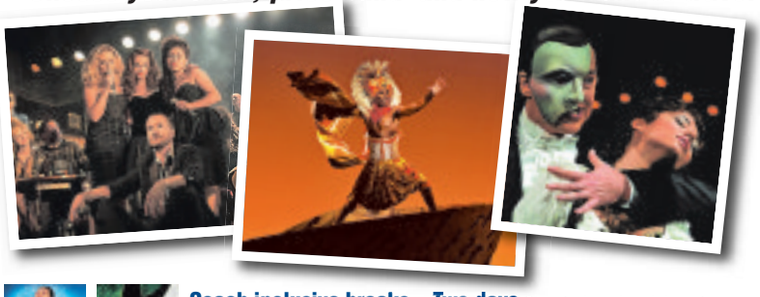
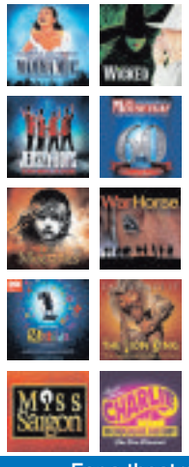
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The crowd at Molineux around the 1950s

Molineux around the 1950s with a view over Wolverhampton

Families turn up to watch the match at Molineux

A packed Molineux Alley as the fans queue to get in for the match in the 1950s

How Molineux grew into the golden giant

MEMORY LANE

By Tim Nash

IT used to be known as a pleasure ground and has been the arena for plenty of happiness and every other emotion since.

Molineux, Wolves' home for 125 years, has become one of the most iconic grounds in British football.

From humble beginnings when the club rented it for £50 in 1889, it has become an instantly recognisable name in sport and the spiritual home for thousands of Wolves fans.

From bans because of crowd trouble – in 1919-20 – a stand roof blowing down in a gale, and becoming an ammunitions dump during the Second World War, Molineux had its fair share of ups and downs in its first 65 years.

But its prestige as a marquee venue is reflected in it hosting nine FA Cup semi-finals and three full England internationals during that period. And its diversity is seen in its multiple use prior to Wolves moving in. Named after the Molineux family who took up residence there, by the 1860s the grounds boasted a bandstand, boating lake and an ice rink, and hosted galas, fetes and croquet, as well as cycling and athletics events.

In more recent decades, several non-sporting events have been held there, including fireworks displays, Jehovah's Witness conventions and even a Bon Jovi concert.

Jewel

But it's as Wolves' home that it is most synonymous. And if the club undoubtedly put Wolverhampton on the map, then Molineux became the jewel from which its most famous export – Wolves – shone.

From the towering South Bank to the Molineux Street Stand and its much-loved eye-catching multi-span gabled roof, Molineux has always been distinctive. And as one of the first football grounds to erect floodlights in 1953, it was seen to be innovative.

Those themes were reflected on the pitch too. Through the experimental Major Frank Buckley in the pre-war years to the glory of the all-conquering Stan Cullis era, Molineux witnessed plenty of highlights in its first six-and-a-half decades. Wolves' first Football League title came in 1954, but later that year came Molineux's most famous match when the mighty Honved were beaten.

By the end of the 1930s when Wolves twice finished runners-up in the League, they were attracting crowds of 50,000 plus and a record attendance of 61,315 for the visit of Liverpool in the FA Cup fifth round in 1939.

But there were even better times to come. At the end of its 65th year, Molineux became the nerve centre of a nation glued to their TV sets watching grainy footage of a game that has gone down as a landmark moment in British football history. Wolves toppled the crack Hungarian side 3-2 and were declared 'champions of the world'.

Looking on as one of the footballers works out on the rowing machine – players getting fit in the 1930s

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A special concert is scheduled for Saturday 20th September in Dudley when the ladies of the Cosford Military Wives Choir hit town. Formed only last year by wives and partners of servicemen based at RAF Cosford in Shropshire, the choir, led by musical director Gill Hawkes, has already been wowing audiences, singing at many prestigious events across the country. Performances are under the umbrella of the Military Wives Choirs Foundation, which has Gareth Malone as its patron.

They are dropping in on a flying visit as guests of the Dudley-based Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir, whose annual Autumn Concert is at Dudley Town Hall. The performance begins at 7.30pm.

The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir stage regular concerts at the Town Hall and are delighted that the ladies have agreed to come and sing with them on this occasion. An exciting programme of music is lined up and the two choirs will even join to sing as one for one or two pieces. Master of Ceremonies will be Adrian Goldberg, well-known presenter on BBC WM and Radio Five Live.

In attendance will be the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Margaret Aston, and her consort, Councillor Adam Aston, and proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Mayor's chosen charities, Action Heart and Guide Dogs. Tickets, at £15 each, are selling fast and anyone who requires them should either call the hotline on 01384 838863 or Midland Box Office on 0870 3207000 or contact any member of the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir.

Information about Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir future concerts can be obtained by visiting their website at www.gsmvc.org.uk/events

Members of the Cosford Military Wives Choir and the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir pictured at RAF Cosford in Shropshire

Local woman may hold key to Ripper identity

MORE than 120 years after her death, Wolverhampton-born Catherine Eddowes may have helped finally unmask the identity of her killer – tJack the Ripper.

Stalking the streets and prostitutes of London's Whitechapel in the 1880s, the notorious Ripper was responsible for at least five brutal killings, and his identity has been one of the world's greatest unsolved murder mysteries ever since.

Now, after years of investigation by 'armchair detective' Russell Edwards and Dr Jari Louhelainen, a genetic evidence expert, a new book is claiming the Ripper was in fact Polish immigrant Aaron Kosminski.

Catherine Eddowes

Finding a victim, probably Eddowes

Mitre Square in London,where Catherine Eddowes was murdered

Match

Tests on a shawl found near Eddowes' body are believed to show DNA from Kosminski and his victim – who it is claimed may have been a prostitute. A forensic expert from the University of Wolverhampton says more checks needed to be made..

Head of forensic science, Dr Raul Sutton, said there were three points to consider, whether it could be proven the shawl came from the victim; whether the blood was that of Catherine Eddowes; and whether the semen stain was from Kosminski.

In order to match the DNA on the shawl, Mr Edwards and Dr Louhelainen had tracked down descendants of both Eddowes and Kosminski to test their DNA.

He said: "I don't know how good the evidence is that has been presented, Dr Louhelainen claims it is quite a good match to the person who is the descendant, but we haven't seen the evidence yet."

Starting life in Graiseley Green, Catherine was born in 1842, to George Eddowes, a tin plate worker at the Old Hall Works, and local hostelry cook Catherine (nee Evans).

It is believed George left his job during the tinmen's strike in 1848, and walked with his family to London to find work. One report says Eddowes returned to the city in 1855 after the death of her parents, living with an aunt until, aged 21, she met Thomas Conway.

Moving to Birmingham and other towns, selling cheap books written by Conway, they had three children together. After she left him, Eddowes took refuge back in Wolverhampton in a lodging house, before returning to London where she met her fate.

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Dance delight as Birmingham Royal Ballet is returning home

A REVIVAL of David Bintley's gothic fairy tale Beauty and the Beast and three one-act ballets, each touched by war, feature in the Birmingham Royal Ballet's autumn programme from next week.

BRB will return home to the Birmingham Hippodrome stage from 30 September to 11 October. First up, until October 4, will be BRB artistic director David Bintley's ever-popular Beauty and the Beast.

That will be followed, from October 8 to 11, by Shadows of War, a triple bill of ballets which have a connection with war. It features Kenneth MacMillan's La Fin du jour, which captures the glamorous 'la plage' lifestyle enjoyed by bright young things in the 1920s and 30s until brought to an end by the Second World War. Robert Helpmann's 1944 Miracle in the Gorbals was a great leap forward for British ballet when it dispensed with all the glamour of traditional ballets, replacing it with a gritty realism.

Belle met — scene from Beauty and the Beast

Scottish

Bintley's Flowers of the Forest is a ballet in two parts set to music by Malcolm Arnold and Benjamin Britten. It takes its title from the ballad to Scottish youth slain on Flodden Field in the war between England and Scotland. Four Scottish Dances presents a picture postcard view of Scotland whilst Scottish Ballad strikes a serious note.

The BRB will then be back at the Hippodrome with their Christmas treat for the Midlands, Sir Peter Wright's The Nutcracker from November 28 to December 13.

There is also ballet at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this week when English Youth Ballet give dozens of aspiring young dancers from the West Midlands the chance to pirouette alongside professional principals in a traditional production of The Sleeping Beauty. More than 100 youngsters aged from eight to 18 will join the eight professionals in this opulent staging of a much-loved ballet tomorrow evening and twice on Saturday, matinee and evening.

A 'Zulu ballet' can be seen at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Friday, October 3, when the harmonies of South African vocal group Ladysmith Black Mambazo merge with Mark Baldwin's choreography blending Zulu traditions with ballet and contemporary dance. Inala is a one night only performance by 18 dancers and singers. There is more dance, at Birmingham Town Hall, on October 8 when Paco Pena brings his flamenco company to the venue for a production entitled Requiem for the Earth.

The revamped revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Cats continues at Birmingham Hippodrome until September 27 and adult's only puppet musical Avenue Q continues at the New Alexandra Theatre to Saturday, followed by new 1970s jukebox musical Blockbuster from Tuesday to Saturday, featuring Paul Nicholas and Suzanne Shaw.

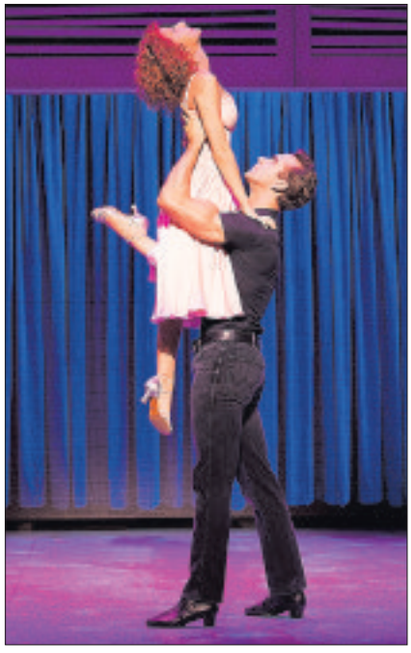
Uplifting, nostalgic romance

FANS of classic 1980s movie Dirty Dancing will be having the time of their lives when the uplifting tale about romance against the odds is staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre for nearly three weeks.

The latest production of the show, which was a West End hit, is at the Lichfield Street venue from Tuesday, September 23, until Saturday, October 11.

Set in an upstate New York holiday resort during the 1960s, it tells of the love between Baby and Johnny, a young holidaymaker and the resort dance instructor, played in the movie by Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze.

Featuring such 1960s tunes as Do You Love Me and Hey Baby, this touring production has Gareth Bailey as Johnny Castle and Roseanna Frascona as Frances 'Baby' Houseman and recreates that most famous movie dancefloor moment... the lift.



Nobody puts Baby in a corner — a scene from Dirty Dancing

Riverdance is to celebrate 20 years

IT'S been 20 years since Riverdance, the spectacular Irish phenomena, first burst onto the scene when an excerpt was performed during the Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin.

The show mixing traditional Irish dance with tap and a whole lot more went on to achieve global success. It has been seen by more than 2.9 million people across the UK and by TV audiences in excess of 2 billion.

The cast includes All-Ireland, Great Britain, All-Scotland, and North American Irish dance champion Andrew O'Reilly.

Riverdance 2014 will be performed from Tuesday to Thursday at the new-look NIA in Birmingham city centre. Tickets are £46.50. Call 0844 3388000.

The Kite Runner adapted for stage

KHALED Hosseini's haunting Afghan tale, The Kite Runner, has been adapted for the stage and is at Birmingham Rep September 22 to October 4.

At the Rep's The Studio Lisa Dwan performs the Samuel Beckett trilogy, Not I, Footfall, Rockaby, until Saturday.

Lyngo Theatre present children's fairy tale Jack and the Beanstalk at The Rep's Door with performances on Saturday morning and afternoon.

A new comedy drama about a British Sikh family, Happy Birthday Sunita, is being performed at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

Cor baby it's really he at the Robin 2

OTWAY and Barrett, who found fame in the 1970s with their debut album John Otway and Wild Willy Barrett, will play Bilston's Robin 2 on Sunday. The record, produced by The Who guitarist Pete Townshend, was released in 1976 and spawned hit single Really Free, which reached the dizzy heights of 27 on the chart a year later.

Rock and Roll's Greatest Failure — Otway the Movie was released last year with the help of his fiercely dedicated fan base, who funded the project, and has now made it to DVD. To celebrate Otway returns to the stage with his original songwriting partner. Advance tickets are £12.50 or £15 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or visit therobin.co.uk

Singers are on the comeback trail

PICK of the gigs this week includes the return of singer-songwriter Beverley Craven at the MAC in Edgbaston tonight as part of a tour to mark release of new album Change of Heart.

Former frontman of goth gods The Mission, Wayne Hussey, has a solo show at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Monday.

That's the same night that alt-J rock the Civic Hall at Wolverhampton with their new album This Is All Yours.

Soul, hip hop and rap fans will be heading over to Birmingham's O2 Academy on Tuesday for the return of Ms Lauryn Hill, as the former Fugee starts a comeback.

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CHOICE

Jenna Coleman

Doctor Who, BBC 1, 7.30pm
The Time Lord has never shied away from a challenge – in fact, he's more likely than most to face them head-on. So when he's offered the chance to have a go at breaking into the most dangerous bank in the cosmos, he grabs it with both hands – after all, such opportunities don't come every day, even for centuries-old adventurers. The Doctor won't be alone during the task – lending a hand will be a beautiful shape-shifter, a cyber-augmented gamer and, of course, trusty sidekick Clara. And they will have to have all their wits about them if they're to overcome the bank's deadly security as well as the fearsome Teller – a powerful creature that can detect guilt. Sci-fi drama, starring Peter Capaldi and Jenna Coleman, with a guest appearance by Keeley Hawes.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** Formula 1: Singapore Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Suzi Perry presents action from the Singapore Grand Prix qualifying session at the Marina Bay Street Circuit, where the 14th round of the season takes place.

6.25 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.40 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong challenges famous contestants from children's TV. The four pairs are former Play School presenters Johnny Ball and Carol Chell, kids' game show hosts Dave Benson-Phillips and Pat Sharp, Horrible Histories stars Jim Howick and Ben Wilibond and PC Plum and Miss Hoolie from Balamory – otherwise known as actors Andrew Agnew and Julie Wilson Nimmo. Richard Osman has all the answers.

7.30 Doctor Who. The Time Lord is given a task he cannot refuse – to steal from the most dangerous bank in the cosmos – bringing him face to face with a creature that can detect a person's guilt.

8.20 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, with Gaby Roslin.

9.10 Casualty. Connie's old boss Andrea returns to the ED and risks a boy's life to conceal her secret. Lofty worries about a patient's mental health and Dixie is jealous of Tamzin and Jeff.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included West Ham United v Liverpool at Upton Park and Aston Villa v Arsenal at Villa Park.

11.40 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Millwall v Nottingham Forest.

1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Film: The Falcon in Hollywood. (1944) **7.15 Film:** The Falcon in San Francisco. (1945) **8.20** The Trials of Life. (R) **9.10** The Trials of Life. (R) **10.00** Map Man. (R) **10.30** South Africa Walks. (R) **11.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. **12.25** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.55** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes. (R) **1.55** Maggie Smith: Talking Pictures. **2.35 Film:** Ladies in Lavender. (2004) Period drama, starring Judi Dench. **4.10 Film:** Six Days Seven Nights. (1998) Romantic adventure, starring Harrison Ford and Anne Heche. **5.45** The £100K House: Tricks of the Trade. (R)

6.45 Flog It! Thomas Plant and Catherine Southon value items at London Zoo in Regent's Park, while Paul Martin tours some of the site's listed buildings. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring orders his blundering platoon to guard the bank's money until repairs on the bomb-damaged vault are completed. Comedy, with Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

8.00 Operation Stonehenge: What Lies Beneath. The concluding part of the documentary focuses on the construction, design and enduring significance of the iconic stone circle and the ancient civilisation that flourished around it. With access to the ground-breaking research of a revolutionary project led by the University of Birmingham and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute in Vienna, the programme reveals new insights into Britain's world-famous prehistoric monument. (R)

9.00 Film: Defiance. (2008) Three Jewish brothers escape into the woods during the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, and launch a series of guerrilla attacks on German forces. As word of their actions spreads, other refugees join them to form a larger resistance movement. However, one of the brothers fears their struggle is doomed. Second World War drama, starring Daniel Craig and Liev Schreiber.

11.05 Peaky Blinders. The Lees ransack the Shelbys' betting shop, Campbell puts pressure on Thomas to deliver Freddie and the stolen guns, and John reveals he intends to remarry. (R)

12.05 TOTP2. (R) **1.05 Film:** A Boy Called Dad. (2009) **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.15** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** The Munch Box. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30 Film:** Columbo: Swan Song. (1974) **1.30** Catchphrase. (R) **2.15** I Never Knew That About Britain. (R) **2.45** The X Factor. (R) **3.50 Film:** The Incredible Hulk. (2008) Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill marvels at a performance by One Direction lookalikes and presents a particularly horrific clip. (R)

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Samia Ghadie, Alex Brooker, Annabel Giles and Julian Clary compete to win thousands of pounds for charity by taking on one of the show's resident trivia experts in a test of their general knowledge. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser. Bradley Walsh hosts.

8.00 The X Factor. Having proved themselves in front of the judges, the hopefuls must now perform for an audience of almost 5,000 as the Wembley Arena auditions continue. Expect tears, drama and difficult decisions as the contestants sing for their lives in an attempt to win a place at boot camp and move one step closer to a potentially life-changing record deal. Dermot O'Leary presents.

9.20 Through the Keyhole. Kian Egan, Christine Bleakley and Warwick Davis make up this week's panel as Keith Lemon tours mystery homes and challenges them to guess the identities of the famous occupants.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.40 Film: The Shawshank Redemption. (1994) A banker wrongly jailed for his wife's murder forms an extraordinary friendship with a fellow inmate over the course of their sentences. Drama, with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman.

1.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport. **6.55** Great Scottish Swim. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **10.55** Frasier. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Gadget Man. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ayr and Newbury. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Beatles-loving Scouser David Goodier hosts the final dinner party in Cambridge, hoping to impress his guests with a 1960s Merseybeat dress code and a course of "Spicy Beatballs". (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Sarah Beeny's Double Your House for Half the Money. In Fleckney, Leicestershire, a couple battle the elements to renovate a dilapidated property, while in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, newlyweds expand an old two-bedroom semi. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. GP Peter Berkin and his wife Chard, an alternative medicine practitioner, have decided to build a new home at the bottom of their garden, but cannot agree on any part of the design. Peter is a keen hobbyist who wants the house to feature a workshop where he can build a plane, and he's planning to spend twice the £200,000 budget Chard has in mind. Kevin McCloud follows their progress. (R)

9.00 Film: The A-Team. (2010) Four soldiers are sent on a top-secret mission in Iraq that results in them being imprisoned for a crime they did not commit. When they learn the culprit is trying to sell equipment for producing fake currency, they break out of prison to find both him and evidence of their innocence. Action adventure based on the 1980s TV series, with Liam Neeson, Bradley Cooper, Sharlto Copley and Quinton "Rampage' Jackson.

11.20 Film: Sexy Beast. (2000) A retired safe-breaker living in Spain is visited by his former gangland boss, who needs his help with a bank job in London. Crime thriller, with Ray Winstone.

1.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.05** Homeland. (R) **3.05** Hollyoaks. **5.10** Simply Italian. (R) **5.40** NFL: Rush Zone.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.15** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20 Film:** The Battle of the V1. (1958) Second World War adventure, with Michael Rennie. **2.25 Film:** U-571. (2000) Second World War adventure, starring Matthew McConaughey. **4.35 Film:** The Great Escape. (1963) Second World War drama, starring Steve McQueen.

8.05 The First Great Escape. Documentary using original accounts and diaries extracts to tell the story of a prison break staged by British officers from the Holzminden PoW camp in Hanover during the First World War, inspiring the famous breakout from Stalag Luft III in March 1944 that was depicted in the classic 1963 film The Great Escape. The original plan, staged in July 1918, involved inmates making use of cutlery as digging tools to create a tunnel and bed slats to shore it up, with 29 men making it to freedom on the evening of July 24. (R)

9.00 World War II in Colour. This edition focuses on the effectiveness of the German blitzkrieg – intense military campaigns that aimed to bring about a swift victory using tanks supported by aircraft and infantry. This new type of warfare took the Allies by surprise and allowed Hitler to seize Poland and France within the space of several weeks. Actor Robert Powell narrates the story of the global conflict, told using colourised archive footage, state-of-the-art terrain mapping and cutting-edge computer graphics, and based on government papers and previously classified files. (R)

9.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Live International Boxing. Kid Galahad v Adeilson Dos Santos. Coverage of the super bantamweight bout at Ponds Forge in Sheffield, as the rising British star faces a Brazilian opponent.

12.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Once Upon a Time. Cora tries to get to Mr Gold before the dark magic dies with him. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. Highlights of the series. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes **8.00** Top Gear **9.10 Film:** StreetDance 2 (2012) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **2.00** Bad Education **2.30** Cuckoo **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **8.00** Yellowstone **9.00** Crimes of Passion **10.30** The Story of Top of the Pops 1979 **11.30** Animals Through the Night: Sleepover at the Zoo **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1979 – Big Hits **2.00** Yellowstone **3.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **4.00** Close

ITV2
11.00 The X Factor **1.15** Take Me Out **2.45** Best of You've Been Framed! **3.45** You've Been Framed: A-Z **4.45** You've Been Framed! **5.15 Film:** Cats & Dogs (2001) **7.00 Film:** Twister (1996) **9.20** The Xtra Factor **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** The X Factor **12.25** The Xtra Factor **1.25** Plebs **2.15** Two and a Half Men **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
12.05 A Touch of Frost **2.05 Film:** Columbo: Fade in to Murder (1976) **3.40** Wycliffe **4.50** Inspector Morse **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **1.10** Judge Judy **1.55** Movies Now **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 The Professionals **12.05** The New Avengers **2.20** World Rally Championship Highlights **3.20 Film:** The Battle of Midway (1976) **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** The Motorbike Show **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** The Man with the Golden Gun (1974) **11.40 Film:** The Silence of the Lambs (1991) **2.00** Minder **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **4.30** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 How I Met Your Mother **12.30** Melissa & Joey **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** 2 Broke Girls **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** Made in Chelsea NYC **6.35** The 100 **7.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Get Him to the Greek (2010) **11.15** The Big Bang Theory **11.40** How I Met Your Mother **12.40** Almost Royal **1.15** Drifters **1.50** PhoneShop **2.20** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.15** Glee **4.00** Desperate Housewives

Film4
11.00 Merrill's Marauders (1962) **1.00** Five Children and It (2004) **2.50** Big Miracle (2012) **4.55** Ladyhawke (1985) **7.20** Airplane II: The Sequel (1982) **9.00** Transformers (2007) **11.45** Sightseers (2012) **1.30** Saturday Night Fever (1977) **3.25** Close

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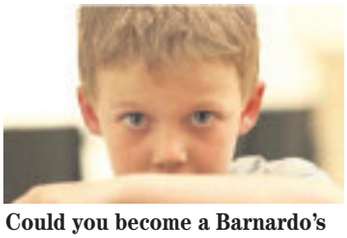

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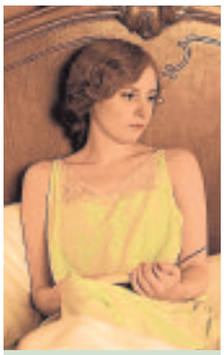

Laura Carmichael

Downton Abbey, ITV, 9.00pm
New series. The eagerly awaited fifth series of Julian Fellowes' hit period drama begins. It's now 1924, and while Britain feels the winds of change swept in by a new Labour government, Downton's residents – both above and below stairs – are undergoing alterations too. After mourning the death of his beloved wife Lady Sybil for four years, Branson decides it's time he got on with his life, although Robert isn't comfortable about the ex-chauffeur's relationship with local teacher Sarah Bunting. Mary is also ready for love again – but which of her beaus is her Mr Right? Meanwhile, Edith struggles to cope with being parted from her baby, Jimmy receives unwanted female attention and plans for a war memorial cause tension. Allen Leech, Daisy Lewis and Michelle Dockery star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. **3.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Lifeline. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Formula 1: Singapore Grand Prix Highlights. Suzi Perry introduces the key moments of the 14th race of the season, staged at the Marina Bay Street Circuit.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. In Devon, Matt Baker hears about a Second World War bomber that crashed on Dartmoor and joins a farmers' co-operative. Anita Rani meets a sculptor inspired by the local trees. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Kirby Hall in Northamptonshire, where members of the public bring along antiques and collectibles to hear their stories and find out their worth. Items include a jade bowl once used as a butter dish, marine paintings from the family of Captain Bligh, a vintage TV set, a medieval ring found with the aid of a metal detector and a wind-up Charlie Chaplin doll. In the new feature looking back at previous items, art specialist Philip Mould hopes to learn more about a 500-year-old religious painting, originally featured in 2010 and now fully restored.

9.00 Our Girl. New series. Lacey Turner stars in this follow-up to last year's one-off drama about an aimless young woman who joins the Army, following her deployment to Afghanistan.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. A review of the latest Premier League action, which included Manchester City v Chelsea at the Etihad Stadium and Leicester City v Manchester United at the King Power Stadium.

11.50 Film: The Resident. (2011) A doctor moves into a spacious new apartment, but realises her landlord is dangerously obsessed with her. Horror, starring Hilary Swank and Christopher Lee.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Countryfile. (R) **7.00** Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.20** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.50** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes. (R) **1.50 Film:** 4 for Texas. (1963) Comedy Western, starring Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra. **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Equator. (R) **5.30** Penguins on a Plane: Great Animal Moves. Part two of two. The transportation of saltwater crocodiles and wolves. (R)

6.30 Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs. Tanya Arnold presents action from the opening matches, featuring the qualifying and elimination play-offs, as the sides look to take their next step towards reaching the Grand Final.

7.30 Dad's Army. Capt Mainwaring and the platoon offer to help Pte Godfrey's widowed friend gather in the harvest on her farm – but their well-meaning efforts end in predictable chaos. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. A couple hope to win investment for their fruity alcohol alternative and two recent university graduates bring their range of campus fashions into the Den. (R)

9.00 Life in Solitary. Documentary following the new warden of Maine State Prison as he tries to reform the system and release dangerous inmates from solitary confinement back into the general population.

10.00 Mock the Week. Host Dara O Briain and regulars Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons are joined by Rob Beckett, Gary Delaney, Sara Pascoe and Romesh Ranganathan for the topical comedy quiz. (R)

10.30 Peaky Blinders. Thomas deals with an IRA chief out to avenge his cousin's death, Campbell gets closer to finding the stolen guns and Grace has to decide where her loyalties lie. (R)

11.30 Peaky Blinders. Secrets are revealed that force the Shelbys to face up to the problems that have divided them, while Campbell unleashes one last plan to take down the gang. Last in the series. (R)

12.25 Film: Don't Worry About Me. (2009) **1.45** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.40** Holby City. (R) **3.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.20** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30 Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel. (1967) **1.20 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd. (1993) Comedy sequel, starring Charles Grodin. **3.00** The X Factor. (R) **4.15** Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.10 You've Been Framed! Surreal comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' clips, featuring the horrors of the Harry Styles Finishing School and the sight of Beyonce without her make-up. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. Jason Manford hosts the variety show, with music by Maroon 5, Earth, Wind & Fire, Ella Henderson and Evita star Madalena Alberto, plus Canadian acrobats Les 7 Doigts de la Main.

8.00 The X Factor. The search for a star continues at Wembley Arena as the judges give their verdicts on the hopefuls' second auditions. Dermot O'Leary meets the acts as they step into the spotlight.

9.00 Downton Abbey. New series. Branson's blossoming relationship with local teacher Sarah Bunting causes Robert concern, Jimmy receives unwanted female attention and Thomas gives Baxter an ultimatum.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.50 The Unforgettable Larry Grayson. Tribute to the comedian and game-show host who was hailed as an overnight success at the age of 51 and became famous for his catchphrases and camp performances. (R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, which included Bath v Leicester Tigers, Harlequins v Wasps and Newcastle Falcons v Northampton Saints.

12.20 The Store. **2.20** Motorsport UK. **3.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 NFL: The American Football Show. (R) **7.00** Street Velodrome. **7.55** British GT. **8.30** Ironman 2014. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30 Film:** Star Trek: Insurrection. (1998) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Patrick Stewart. **5.30** Deal or No Deal.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Posh Pawn. Prestige Pawnbrokers boss James Constantinou and the team receive a visit from a former Chelsea footballer who has brought along some expensive watches. James is also put to the test when asked to evaluate a hovercraft from a Bond film, and an unusual painting of Saddam Hussein causes a stir in the office. (R)

8.00 Operation Maneater. New series. The Nile crocodile, the polar bear and the great white shark are three of the deadliest predators on Earth – and when they strike out at humans, it often leads to revenge attacks. In this series, vet Mark Evans tries to break the cycle of violence, and asks if technology could provide a way for us to peacefully co-exist with these creatures. His mission begins at Namibia's Chobe River, aka the crocodile attack capital of the world. With the help of experts Rom Whitaker and Dr Patrick Aust, Mark attempts a radical experiment designed to train the crocodiles to associate the sound of a bell with electric shocks.

9.00 Film: Safe House. (2012) Premiere. A CIA agent stationed in South Africa is sent to question a rogue operative, who has been arrested years after betraying the agency, only to be attacked by mercenaries hired to capture the fugitive. As they flee for their lives together, the interrogator has to contend with not only the enemies hunting them, but also the mind games of his prisoner. Thriller, with Denzel Washington.

11.15 Film: The Sixth Sense. (1999) A child psychologist takes on the case of a boy terrified by ghostly apparitions. M Night Shyamalan's supernatural thriller, with Bruce Willis and Haley Joel Osment.

1.10 American Football Live. **5.00** British GT. (R) **5.30** Simply Italian. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Access. (R) **10.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.55 Film:** Are We Done Yet? (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Ice Cube. **3.40 Film:** See Spot Run. (2001) Comedy, starring David Arquette. **5.35 Film:** Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. (2009) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Hader.

7.15 5 News Weekend.

7.20 Film: Rush Hour 2. (2001) The two mismatched detectives travel to Hong Kong when terrorists bomb the US embassy, and are soon involved in keeping tabs on the prime suspects – high-ranking Triad members involved in an international counterfeiting ring. Action comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, John Lone, Zhang Ziyi, Roselyn Sanchez and Harris Yulin. Edited for violence and language.

9.00 Film: In Time. (2011) Premiere. Future scientists reverse the ageing process, allowing people to live for ever. To avoid overpopulation, time becomes a currency, with the rich living indefinitely while the poor must toil to stave off death. A factory worker acquires 100 years of time, and spends it fighting to redress the balance of power. Sci-fi thriller, starring Justin Timberlake, Amanda Seyfried and Cillian Murphy.

11.10 Film: Elektra. (2005) An assassin has a crisis of conscience and decides to protect the father and daughter she was hired to kill. Comic-book adventure, starring Jennifer Garner and Goran Visnjic.

12.50 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. **1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Once Upon a Time. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear **8.00** Doctor Who **8.50** Great TV Mistakes **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Bad Education **11.15** Live at the Apollo **11.45** American Dad! **12.35** Comedy Fest Live 2014 **1.30** Bad Education **2.00** Russell Howard's Good News **3.00** Live at the Apollo **3.30** Bad Education

BBC Four

7.00 The John Moores Painting Prize with Alexei Sayle **7.30** Secret Knowledge: Hidden Jewels of the Cheapside Hoard **8.00** Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities **9.00** British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **10.00 Film:** Trishna (2011) **11.45** Big Hits: TOTP 1964 to 1975 **1.15** Quadrophenia – Can You See the Real Me? **2.25** British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **3.25** Close

ITV2

12.10 America's Got Talent **2.00** You've Been Framed! **2.30 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **4.25** The X Factor **5.45** The Xtra Factor **6.50 Film:** Twins (1988) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Bad Bridesmaid **11.00** The X Factor **12.05** The Xtra Factor **1.05** Two and a Half Men **1.30** The Big Reunion 2014 **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.40 Inspector Morse **1.50 Film:** Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975) **3.45 Film:** Carry On Screaming (1966) **5.50** Wycliffe **6.55** Lewis **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00 Film:** The Hours (2002) **12.15** William and Mary **2.10** Judge Judy **2.55** World Kitchen **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.05 Police, Camera, Action! **12.05** I Want That Car **1.05** The Motorbike Show **2.05 Film:** For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **5.20 Film:** The Battle of Midway (1976) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Troy (2004) **12.15** Hell on Wheels **1.05** Breakout **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **4.30** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Made in Chelsea NYC **1.35** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** Suburgatory **2.30** The Mindy Project **3.00** New Girl **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.30** The 100 **5.30** Rude(ish) Tube **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30 Film:** Marley and Me (2008) **10.00** Almost Royal **10.30** The Big Bang Theory **11.00** Glue **12.00** Rules of Engagement **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.30** Rude Tube **2.30** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The Enemy Below (1957) **1.00** Avatar (2009) **4.05** 20,000 Days on Earth Special **4.10** Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **6.20** Runaway Jury (2003) **8.50** 20,000 Days on Earth Special **9.00** A Time to Kill (1996) **11.55** Tyrannosaur (2011) **1.45** The King of Marvin Gardens (1972) **3.25** Close

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7PM - THE PARK INN, GEORGE ST, WOODSETTON, DUDLEY
7PM - THE BULLS HEAD, 18 HARRISONS FOLD, ST JOHNS ST, NETHERTON
6.45PM -THE GREAT WESTERN, 1 ASH ST, COSELEY, BILSTON

TUESDAYS
9.15AM "DAY CLASS" - UPPER GORNAL PENSIONERS CLUB, KENT ST, (OPP LABOUR CLUB), UPPER GORNAL
6.30PM "EVENING CLASS" UPPER GORNAL PENSIONERS CLUB, KENT ST, (OPP LABOUR CLUB) UPPER GORNAL
7PM BAGGERIDGE SOCIAL CLUB, STRAITS RD, THE STRAITS, LOWER GORNAL
7PM - THE BIRD IN HAND, 57 JOHN ST, WORDSLEY
7PM - THE HIGH ACRES, RANGEWAYS RD, KINGSWINFORD
6PM - BRICKHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE, DUDHILL RD,ROWLEY REGIS TUESDAY

WEDNESDAYS
6.45PM - ST ANDREWS CHURCH CENTRE, (use entrance off car park rear of church) BILSTON ST, SEDGLEY
6.30PM - ST PAULS COMMUNITY CENTRE, BRICKKILN ST, OFF OWEN ST, TIPTON

THURSDAYS
7PM - THE COTTAGE, NEXT TO RICHARDSON HALL, 10 LAWNSWOOD RD, WORDSLEY, DY8 5 PG

FRIDAY
12 NOON TO 1PM "DAY CLASS" - ST LEONARDS CHURCH, COFFEE LOUNGE, WALSALL ST, BILSTON

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Hollow Man, Channel 5, 11pm
A brilliant scientist tests an invisibility serum on himself, but becomes dangerously intoxicated by the power he acquires. He abandons his morals and heads out into the city to take full advantage of his condition. Realising he has been up to no good, concerned colleagues decide to confront him – with terrible consequences. Paul Verhoeven's sci-fi thriller, starring Kevin Bacon, Elisabeth Shue, Josh Brolin and Kim Dickens. (2000)

TUESDAY
State of Play, ITV, 10.40pm
A hard-nosed journalist investigating the murder of a congressman's intern discovers a connection between the tragedy and the death of a petty crook on the same evening. As he works to get to the bottom of the story, the reporter uncovers a political conspiracy that places him in a precarious and potentially life-threatening position. Thriller, starring Russell Crowe. (2009)

WEDNESDAY
Adam & Paul, Channel 4, 12.30am
Two childhood friends living in Dublin have grown up to be heroin addicts. During the course of a day, they wander the city, hoping to beg, borrow or steal enough cash to feed their habit – but their efforts only lead them into a series of bizarre misadventures. Comedy drama, starring Mark O'Halloran. (2004)

State of Play, Tuesday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY
Killer Instinct: From the Files of Agent Candice DeLong, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An FBI agent retires after 15 gruelling years to pursue a career in nursing. She is drawn back to the bureau after her best friend is raped by a man responsible for a series of murders. However, as she investigates the case, she and her son end up being stalked by the serial killer. Fact-based crime drama, starring Jean Smart and A Martinez. (2003)

FRIDAY
National Lampoon's Animal House, ITV, 11.10pm
A college's most slobbish and unruly student fraternity faces expulsion for upsetting the rigid social order of the campus, so its madcap members plan one final act of rebellion against the college dean and a preppy bunch of snobbish bullies at the annual university homecoming parade. Comedy, starring John Belushi. (1978)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Stars hope to shine bright as the competition begins

A couple of weeks ago, we got our first proper glimpse of the Strictly class of 2014 during the red-carpet launch show – and on the whole, it went pretty well.

No one fell down the stairs or out of their costumes, the celebs managed to get through the group dance without any major incidents, and if any of the professional dancers were disappointed with their matches, they hid it well (Iveta Lukosiute in particular seemed very happy to have landed former rugby player Thom Evans).

But as the competition launches in earnest this weekend, it's going to get a lot harder. Instead of being able to hide at the back during a group number, six of the couples will be taking to the floor tonight, with the rest competing on Saturday.

And this time, judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell will be scoring them.

It's going to be a whole new experience for MasterChef's Gregg Wallace, who is used to being the one dishing out the criticism.

He says: "The judges scare me because you are working really hard and they are the experts and they are there to scrutinise everything you do. It is in their professional interest to critique you properly and that is scary. If they don't pick up on something you do wrong then they lose credibility.

"On MasterChef I let people get away with things as long as they cover it in Chantilly cream!"

Meanwhile, DJ Scott Mills admits he has probably already given at least one judge a reason not to go easy on him. "I met Craig yesterday for the first time. He was on my show and we soaked him with water. So that's probably not going to do me any favours particularly!"

Luckily, Scott adds: "He was very encouraging and nice and told me I have to just do my best. I know on the show he can be quite mean but I guess that's his job – and yesterday I found him surprisingly pleasant!"

And although some people may think that facing the panel is one of the downsides of appearing on Strictly, for one of this year's intake, it was a genuine incentive. Presenter Caroline Flack says: "Ever since I was a presenter on CBBC and used to see the Strictly judges walking around Television Centre I have wanted to be on the show... and this year the time was right."

But will she still feel that way ahead of this weekend's shows? If she's nervous, she's probably in good company, as fellow contestants (deep breath) Pixie Lott, Jake Wood, Frankie Bridge, Simon Webbe, Alison Hammond, Steve Backshall, Sunetra Sarker, Mark Wright, Jennifer Gibney, Judy Murray and Tim Wonnacott are no doubt feeling the pressure too.

At least they've got presenters Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman to put them at ease – and the knowledge that the harshest judges of all, the viewing public, don't get to vote until next week.

Strictly Come Dancing, Friday, BBC1, 9pm

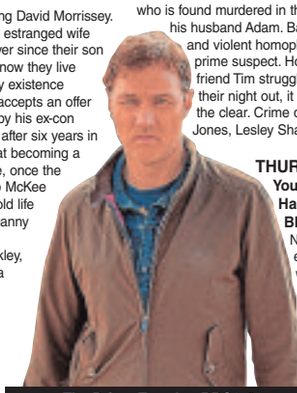
BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Cilla
ITV, 9pm
Reunited with Bobby, Cilla's confidence returns and she once again dazzles crowds with her vocal talents. The re-emergence of impresario Brian Epstein then propels her career to greater heights, but this is quickly followed by a new low when her first record fails to set the charts alight, despite being written by two local lads called John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Epstein suggests a change of direction, persuading the singer to take a gamble on the ballad Anyone Who Had a Heart, against her future husband's advice. Continuing Jeff Pope's three-part biopic charting Cilla Black's rise to fame in 1960s Liverpool, starring Sheridan Smith, with Aneurin Barnard and Ed Stoppard.

Traders: Millions by the Minute
BBC2, 9pm
The concluding programme meets a new breed of trader – the British men and women who play the financial markets online from their kitchens, sofas and bedrooms. Mother-of-three Jane squeezes currency trading in-between the school run and her work as a nurse, while Justyn and Akil are both convinced that trading will be their ticket to a lavish lifestyle. Rene gave up a successful career as an antiques dealer for a new existence as a trader, and is undeterred despite seven years of struggling to break even. Saskia Reeves narrates.

TUESDAY
The Driver
BBC1, 9pm
New series. Crime drama, starring David Morrissey. Taxi driver Vince McKee and his estranged wife Ros have blamed themselves ever since their son Tim cut ties with the family, and now they live separate lives. Vince's day-to-day existence takes an unusual turn when he accepts an offer from a criminal gang organised by his ex-con mate Colin, who has resurfaced after six years in prison. Although initially thrilled at becoming a driver for gang leader The Horse, once the criminals arrange their major job McKee soon wishes he could have his old life back. Written by Bafta-winning Danny Brocklehurst (Accused) and Jim Poyser, it also stars Claudie Blakley, Ian Hart, Shaun Dingwall, Sacha Parkinson and Colm Meaney.

WEDNESDAY
Scott & Bailey
ITV, 9pm
Rachel promised the chaos of her personal life was all in the past, but she is conflicted upon discovering her mother's new boyfriend is a violent domestic abuser. Meanwhile, Janet gets cold feet when she goes on her first date, terrified at the idea of having to sell herself to a stranger. The crimebusters are united in the search for the killer of Rich Hutchings, who is found murdered in the flat he shares with his husband Adam. Barry, their outspoken and violent homophobic neighbour, is the prime suspect. However, as Adam's friend Tim struggles to recall events of their night out, it seems Barry may be in the clear. Crime drama, starring Suranne Jones, Lesley Sharp and Danny Miller.


The Driver, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
Your Home in Their Hands
BBC1, 8pm
New series. There's no end of homeowners who would happily hand over their houses to professional interior designers for a few days, as the success of shows such as 60 Minute Makeover attests. This new three-parter, though, comes with a twist: the so-called 'experts' are but amateurs themselves. In tonight's opener, Yvonne and Dan Lavery are the guinea pigs letting four budding Llewelyn-Bowens into their abode. They readily admit that they're behind the times, stuck in a decor timewarp since taking over Yvonne's parents' home. They've been reluctant to make any changes for fear of upsetting her folks, but are hoping the 'experts' can help to rip off the plaster and create something modern and exciting.

FRIDAY
The X Factor
ITV, 9pm
Simon Cowell's search for a star steps up a gear with the first of three weekend shows spotlighting the good, the bad and the downright awful singers and bands who think they have a shot at the big time. In the first of the weekend's triple bill of Boot Camps, the six chair challenge returns. Cowell, Louis Walsh, Mel B and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini must decide on the final six acts they will take to their Judge's House. However, nobody is safe in this game of musical chairs as each judge can change their mind and swap an act with someone already through with another who comes on and out-performs them. Host Dermot O'Leary oversees the wannabe contestants as they sing for their survival and a coveted place in the live shows

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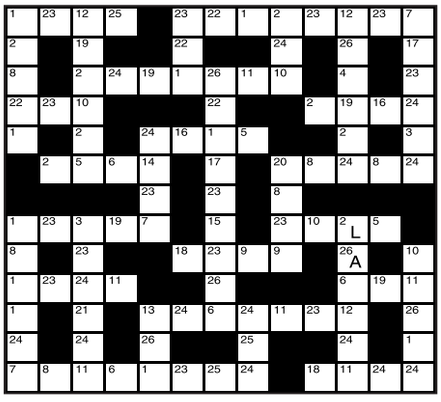
BRAIN GYM No.291

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
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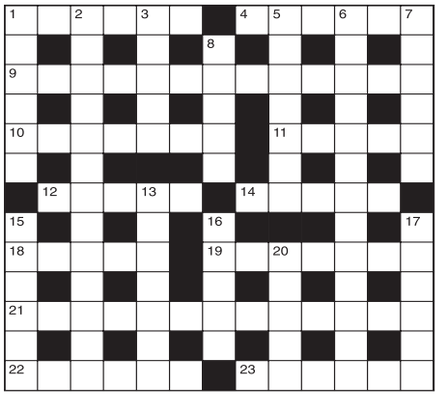
13	26 A

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	Y	V	R	T	Z	O	N	X	M	J	L	P
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	Q	B	C	D	G	F	W	K	I	H	E	U

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Nearly all going to rocky inlet for a recess (6)
4. Just the thing for disturbing a nap! (6)
9. Should poor orators take a course in this? (6,7)
10. Meanwhile the termini have been reconstructed (7)
11. The man behind this tree is in receipt of civic honours (5)
12. Over and above an unknown quantity in revised rate (5)
14. It may come from Bach or Dvorak (5)
18. To put in a confined space will produce muscular pain (5)
19. A prize that shows degeneration (7)
21. Slight upset in temperament (13)
22. Sailor to obtain what is aimed at (6)
23. Annul a law about the sound of bells (6)

Down

1. Take a sea-trip round the south to make an attack (6)
2. A device for increasing the volume of the strong-box? (5,8)
3. Motor required after six for the clerk (5)
5. I keep clean, by the sound of it, but that's humbug (3-4)
6. No unusual charge for a flag! (8,5)
7. Beds for hens (6)
8. Pole to make this sort of speech (5)
13. A sharp answer in the letter I posted (7)
15. Handwriting used by many an actor (6)
16. Stick used for beating (5)
17. Noted book used in the services (6)
20. Increase the level of the beams, we hear (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Gossip (6)
4. Save (6)
9. Gambling (6,1,6)
10. Sweet-sounding (7)
11. Arc (5)
12. Lever (5)
14. Quick (5)
18. Adhesive (5)
19. Initially (2,5)
21. Dismay (13)
22. Roof window (6)
23. Grating (6)

Down

1. Peevish (6)
2. Captured (5,8)
3. Lean and tall (5)
5. Moral (7)
6. Disputable (13)
7. Loophole (6)
8. Convenient (5)
13. Encase (7)
15. Seasoned (6)
16. Wed (5)
17. Attitude (6)
20. Discernment (5)

Sudoku

5			2			6		8
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3					7			9
		5		8			6	
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	2			9				
2						4		7
	3	9		2		1	8	
		8			1			3

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	1	3	9	8	7	2	6	5
9	6	8	3	2	5	1	7	4
2	7	5	6	1	4	8	3	9
6	8	9	7	5	1	3	4	2
3	4	2	8	9	6	7	5	1
1	5	7	4	3	2	6	9	8
8	9	1	5	6	3	4	2	7
7	2	6	1	4	9	5	8	3
5	3	4	2	7	8	9	1	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Put on one side; 7 Light; 8 Cover; 9 Air; 10 Increases; 11 Events; 12 Finish; 15 Israelite; 17 Kin; 18 Ellen; 19 Tried; 21 Show interest. Down: 1 Private lives; 2 Nag; 3 Notice; 4 Secretive; 5 Dives; 6 Press handout; 7 Large; 10 In the know; 13 Inked; 14 Listen; 16 Ralph; 20 Ice. QUICK - Across: 1 Praiseworthy; 7 Table; 8 Felon; 9 Urn; 10 Sacrilege; 11 Energy; 12 Unfair; 15 Obscenity; 17 Bag; 18 Sauna; 19 Might; 21 Investigator. Down: 1 Picture-house; 2 Sob; 3 Wrench; 4 Ruffianly; 5 Halve; 6 Interrogator; 7 Tense; 10 Segregate; 13 Ambit; 14 Kismet; 16 Spurn; 20 Gag.

Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

Simple, free, and all in one place.

Visit www.listora.me/2014 to list your next event.

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £149.95

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £209.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95
Dine and Dance from £149.95

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.*

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Superbly presented and a uniquely designed house

AN individually designed and very attractive four-bedroomed detached house in Dog Kennel Lane, Halesowen, has many luxury features.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £334,950.

It has a hallway, WC, lounge with a superb feature inglenook fireplace with an oak beam over housing a living flame gas fire. There is an re-fitted open plan kitchen with a dining room off with white gloss units, contrasting wood-effect working surface, a ceramic hob with extractor canopy over, integrated oven, microwave, dishwasher and fridge and utility.

On the first floor are four bedrooms with the master having an imposing en suite shower room and bedroom two having an en suite toilet. There is also a luxury house bathroom. There is a double garage, block paved drive and private rear garden. Contact 01562 510440 or for more images visit www.hickshadley.com

Premier location for stunning home

A STUNNING period detached house in the premier address of Pagenel Drive, Dudley has been tastefully and sympathetically refurbished over the last few years to retain original features.

It is for sale through Billingham Taylor at £245,000. The accommodation comprises a porch, entrance hallway with solid wood flooring, bay-fronted dining room with double doors into a rear reception room , an extended breakfast kitchen, breakfast bar, a bay fronted bedroom to the front, two further bedrooms and a good sized re-fitted bathroom. There is a driveway and integral garage with an electronically operated door and superb mature gardens.

For details contact Billingham Taylor on 01384 234900 or visit the website www.billinghamtaylor.co.uk

PTN Estates

Residential Sales & Lettings

Sales: 01384 355233 | Lettings: 01384 345268

74 High Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3AW

NEW

New Street, Quarry Bank, DY5 - £170,000

Hidden from sight at the end of a private driveway off New Street, this modern, detached, three bedroom bungalow offers a wealth of privacy. Accommodation comprises: A porch, entrance hall, spacious lounge/diner, good sized kitchen, utility room, three double bedrooms and bathroom with gas central heating & uPVC double glazing. To the front there is a driveway large enough for several cars as well as an integral garage. To the rear there is a sunny and low maintenance courtyard. **EPC: D**

Foundry Street, Wall Heath, DY6 - £160,000

Situated in a lovely part of Wall Heath being only a stones throw from many local amenities and schools to include the Church of the Ascension Primary School, this period, semi-detached home has lots of character and really needs to be seen to be appreciated. Accommodation in brief comprises a through lounge/diner, breakfast kitchen, ground floor bathroom, two first floor bedrooms and loft bedroom, all of which are double rooms. There is gas central heating and uPVC double glazing and a sunny rear garden. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. **EPC: F**

NEW

High Street, Quarry Bank, DY5 - £60,000

Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN & being competitively priced for a quick sale, this first floor apartment would make an ideal investment or first home. Accommodation comprises a communal lobby with private entrance hall, spacious lounge, good sized kitchen/diner, double bedroom & bathroom with plenty of potential for cosmetic improvements. There is also part double glazing, gas central heating and communal gardens with resident's car park and garage. **EPC: C**

Mousehall Farm Road, Brierley Hill, DY5 - £110,000

NEW

Located on the Caledonia, this lovely, modern end terraced house has a porch, kitchen/diner, spacious lounge, three bedrooms and modern bathroom with uPVC double glazing & central heating as well as a sunny rear garden. **EPC: TBC**

Merryfield Road, Dudley, DY1 - £135,000

REDUCED

Located on the Russell's Hall Estate, this well presented & extended semi-detached home has accommodation comprising an entrance porch, lounge, good sized kitchen/diner, utility, conservatory, three double bedrooms, bathroom, en-suite, central heating & double glazing. Outside, there is a generous driveway & rear garden. **EPC: D**

Moncrieffe Close, Dudley, DY2 - £70,000

Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, this spacious, two bedroom, second floor apartment sits in a popular development offering good access to with accommodation comprising an entrance hall, spacious lounge, kitchen, two double bedrooms and bathroom. **EPC: D**

Find us on: zoopla.co.uk | rightmove.co.uk | primelocation.co.uk | facebook.com | ptnestates.co.uk

Five-bedroomed home with commercial unit

A LARGE five-bedroomed detached home in Wood Street, Tipton, comes with a commercial unit with possible development potential.

It is for sale through Bairstow Eves at £395,000. It has an entrance hallway, two reception rooms, a kitchen with a double gas oven and hob with extractor fan, utility with plumbing for a washing machine, WC, family bathroom, bedroom one with en suite, two further bedrooms, second floor bedrooms four and five (both en suite), and rear garden with patio, and unit.

Contact on 0121 5444554 or visit www.bairstoweves.co.uk

www.bakersproperty.co.uk

GORNAL

COTWALL END ROAD
- SEMI DETACHED
- EXTENDED
- LOUNGE
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM/SITTING ROOM
- THREE BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM• GARAGE
- GAS C/HTG• DOUBLE GLAZED

OFFERS BASED ON: £169,950

GORNAL

SANDSTONE CLOSE
- MAISONETTE
- FIRST FLOOR
- PURPOSE BUILT
- IMMACULATE
- LOUNGE
- BEDROOM
- FITTRD BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZED

OFFERS BASED ON: £69,950

GORNAL

NEW STREET
- MID TERRACED
- LOUNGE• FITTED KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY• TWO BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM• GAS C/HTG
- DOUBLE GLAZED
- PRIVATE LANDSCAPED GARDENS
- IMMACULATE THR'OUT
- IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE/INVESTMENT

OFFERS BASED ON: £97,500

GORNAL

STRAITS ROAD
- SEMI DETACHED
- CORNER PLOT
- HALL• LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- THREE BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM• GARAGE
- LANDSCAPED GARDENS
- IMMACULATE THR'OUT

OFFERS BASED ON: £169,950

GORNAL

HILLCREST

Semi detached on a good sized plot with block paved off road parking. Accomodation comprises Porch Reception, Hall, 21ft Lounge, spacious fitted Dining Kitchen, three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Part Gas C/HTG, Part Double Glazed, Off road Parking, Ideal first purchase/Investment

OFFERS BASED ON: £110,000

GORNAL

THORNLEIGH
- SEMI DETACHED
- EXTENDED • HALL
- LOUNGE • DINING AREA
- FITTED KITCHEN
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM • GARAGE
- DOUBLE GLAZED • GAS C/HTG

OFFERS BASED ON: £138,950

GORNAL

BIRD STREET

Fully recently refurbished detached cottage style property in a popular residential area within walking distance of the village centre.Lounge-Dining Room-Fitted Kitchen-Cloakroom-Two Bedrooms-Bathroom-Gas C/Htg -Double Glazed Gardens-freehold-Vacant Possession-Reduced toSell

OFFERS BASED ON: £97,500

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BRIERLEY HILL

DADFORD VIEW

FOR SALE £89,500

Offered in good decorative order and with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Cluster Style Property to include: Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Front Garden Area, Allocated Parking.

TIPTON

NIGHTINGALE DRIVE

FOR SALE £59,995

First Floor purpose built Flat. Accommodation comprises of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN, benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Off Road Parking.

PENSNETT

HIGH STREET

FOR SALE £149,995

Detached Property. Comprises of: Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms,Bathroom with separate Shower Cubicle. Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking.

BRIERLEY HILL

NORTH STREET

FOR SALE £92,500

Well Presented, Modern Ground Floor Apartment. Comprises of: Entrance Hall with Store, Spacious Lounge, Large Kitchen/Diner, Two Good Size Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits Include: Electric Heating , Off Road Parking and Visitor Parking.

AMBLECOTE

EVOLUTION, HIGH STREET

£550 pcm*

Modern Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating. AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY.

PENSNETT

HIGH STREET

£570 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Large Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

UPPER GORNAL

GOODRICH MEWS

£685 pcm*

Town House, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

GORNAL

OX STREET

£625 pcm*

Semi Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

STOURBRIDGE

BAGLEYS ROAD

£395 pcm*

Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing

NETHERTON

NORWICH ROAD

£535 pcm*

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

BRIERLEY HILL

HULLAND PLACE

£560 pcm*

Semi Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Parking for 2-3 Cars, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed Sealed Units

KINGSWINFORD

SYCAMORE ROAD

£575 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

BROCKMOOR

STATION ROAD

£495 pcm*

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

SEDGLEY

QUEENS ROAD

£770 pcm*

Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, W.C, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Single Garage, Parking for 2 cars, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

SEDGLEY

HAMILTON CLOSE

£750 pcm*

Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

KINGSWINFORD

DUDLEY ROAD

750 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Large Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking

KINGSWINFORD

WINDERMERE DRIVE

£795 pcm*

Detached House, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Downstairs Shower Room, FOUR Bedrooms, Bathroom, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

BRIERLEY HILL

FOXDALE DRIVE

£460 pcm*

Cluster style property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Front Garden

WORDSLEY

BRACKEN PARK GARDENS

£400 pcm*

Excellent Top Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom, Allocated Parking to the front of the block, maintained communal grounds.

STOURBRIDGE

WILDACRES

£660 pcm*

Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

GORNAL

CENTRAL DRIVE

£510 pcm*

Semi Detached House, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

RUSSELLS HALL

MERRYFIELD ROAD

£550 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens

WALL HEATH

BLAZE PARK

£695 pcm*

Mid Terrace Property, Large Lounge, Dining Room, Good Size Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

HALESOWEN

BLOOMFIELD ST WEST

£495 pcm*

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

(Administration/application fees will apply)

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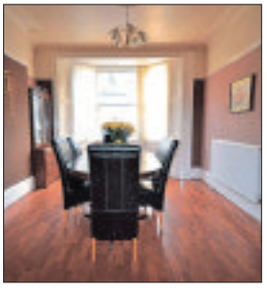
A Chronicle supplement

CHRONICLE

Victorian detached house refurbished to high standard

A SPACIOUS three-bedroomed Victorian detached home in Dingle Street, Oldbury, has been refurbished to a very high standard.

It is for sale through Love Your Postcode at offers over £174,950. With double glazing and gas central heating, it has an open plan lounge and dining room, front office or breakfast room, kitchen with dining and breakfast bar, two cellars, workshop area, car port and garden. The master bedroom has patio doors leading to a balcony terrace. There are two further bedrooms, bathroom and loft. Contact 0121 5449595 or view www.wlyp.co.uk



Quay to the door at four-bed semi in popular area of town

THIS spacious four-bedroomed semi-detached house in Monins Avenue, Tipton, lies on the popular Tividale Quays estate. It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £149,995.

It has an entrance hall, WC, second lounge, study/bedroom four, utility, first floor landing, lounge area, breakfast kitchen with French doors to a balcony, gas hob, cooker hood, oven, grill, fridge and freezer.

There is a second floor landing, en suite bedroom one with wardrobe, two further bedrooms (one of them with French doors out to a Juliet balcony), bathroom, driveway and rear garden.

For details contact Skitts Estate Agents on 0121 5202255 or visit www.skitts.net website.

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NEW — SUBSTANTIAL FAMILY HOME

EPC TBC

DUDLEY
BURTON ROAD

- Spacious Semi-Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Living Room plus Conservatory
- Fitted Dining Kitchen plus Utility Area
- Downstairs WC
- First Floor Bathroom
- First Floor Modern Shower Room
- Off Road Parking plus Garage
- Private Rear Garden
- Interior Viewing Highly Recommended

£149,950

NEW — POPULAR LOCATION

EPC D

SEDGLEY
GIBBONS HILL ROAD

- Semi-Detached Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking plus Garage
- No Upward Chain
- Interior Viewing Highly Recommended

£130,000

REDUCED — FANTASTIC OPEN VIEWS

EPC C

UPPER GORNAL
RUBENS CLOSE

- Semi-Detached Town House
- Two Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Stylish Dining Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom
- Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking
- Panoramic Open Views
- Fully Enclosed and Private Rear Garden
- Quiet Location
- Interior Viewing Highly Recommended

£119,950

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on - **SEDGLEY 01902 686868**

NEW — EPC D

UPPER GORNAL
PRIORS MILL

- Mid Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms plus Loft Room
- Living Room
- Stylish Dining Kitchen
- First Floor Bathroom
- Enclosed & Private Rear Garden
- Two Out Buildings
- Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)

£99,950

NEW — EPC E

BRIERLY HILL
SANDFIELD BRIDGE

- Mid-Terraced Property
- 'Rustic Feel'
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room Off
- Downstairs WC
- First Floor Bathroom
- Pleasant Rear Garden

£114,950

NEW — EPC TBC

DUDLEY
BLOWERS GREEN CRESCENT

- Extended Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- First Floor Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Interior Viewing Highly Recommended

£119,950

NEW — EPC TBC

SEDGLEY
WESTFIELD ROAD

- Semi-Detached Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- First Floor Shower Room
- Downstairs Cloaks
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Pleasant Rear Garden

£119,000

NEW — EPC TBC

THE STRAITS
TENNYSON ROAD

- Link-Detached Bungalow
- Two/Three Bedrooms
- Living Room plus Dining Room
- Sitting Room/Bed Three
- Conservatory
- Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Garage
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Extensive Rear Garden

£220,000

REDUCED — EPC D

DUDLEY
ELMFIELD VIEW

- Exceptional Detached Residence
- Substantial Family Home
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Delightful Dining Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Ensuite Shower Room
- Private Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain

£235,000

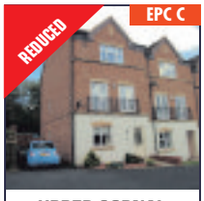
REDUCED — EPC D

UPPER GORNAL
EVE LANE

- Well Presented
- Semi-Detached
- Family Residence
- Three Bedrooms
- 22ft Lounge Diner
- Stylish Kitchen
- Bathroom with Bath & Shower Cubicle
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden

£119,,950

REDUCED — EPC C



UPPER GORNAL
REDSTONE WAY

- Spacious End Town House
- Substantial Accommodation
- Over Three Floors
- Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Second Lounge on First Floor
- Fully Enclosed and Pleasant Rear Garden

£184,950

REDUCED — EPC D

UPPER GORNAL
TUDOR ROAD

- Extended Semi-Detached House
- Three Good Size Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- First Floor Shower Room
- Private Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

£110,000

REDUCED — EPC D

GORNAL WOOD
ASH GROVE

- Modern Detached Bungalow
- Spacious Accommodation
- Extremely Well Presented Throughout
- Two/Three Bedrooms
- Living Room plus Conservatory
- Dining Room/Bed Three
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Bathroom plus Ensuite Shower Room
- Off Road Parking plus Garage

£215,000

EPC D

COSELEY
FOUNTAIN LANE

- Spacious First Floor Flat
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Living Room, Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Private and Enclosed Rear Garden
- Central Heating
- Ideal Investment or First Time Buy
- No Upward Chain
- Popular Location

£64,950

EPC C

GORNAL WOOD
PROSPECT ROAD

- Detached Property
- Three Double Bedrooms
- 22ft 'L' Shaped Lounge Diner
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom plus Ensuite
- Sun Room, Sauna
- Delightful Rear Garden with Fantastic Views

£249,950

GARAGE — EPC E

WOODSETTON
SEDGLEY ROAD

- An Extremely Well Presented
- Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge, Spacious Dining Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom
- Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- Garage plus Off Road Parking
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

REDUCED TO £139,950

EPC E

DUDLEY
GILL STREET

- End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- First Floor Bathroom
- Living Room
- Breakfast Room
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)

£93,000

EPC D

BILSTON
MASLIN DRIVE

- Set Back Off Maslin Drive
- Accessed via Shared Private Driveway
- Modern Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing (Where Specified)
- Secluded Rear Garden

£175,000

EPC D

DUDLEY
OLD PARK ROAD

- RECENTLY RE-FURBISHED
- Traditional Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom
- Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking

£132,950 STAMP DUTY PAID

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New

KINGSWINFORD, Almond Road

Set within a small development of just 3 bungalows, this STUNNING DETACHED BUNGALOW offers SPACIOUS and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED accommodation, comprising: Central Reception Hall, Large Lounge, CONSERVATORY, Dining Room / Bedroom 3, beautifully appointed Kitchen with appliances, TWO SUPERB BEDROOMS (master with EN-SUITE), Bathroom. GAS CENTRAL HEATING/ UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With front gardens, DRIVEWAY, DOUBLE GARAGE and LANDSCAPED SIDE / REAR GARDENS secluded by woodland. EPC Rating:D. KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£309,950

New

KINGSWINFORD, Collindale Court

A SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED DETACHED FAMILY HOME which has been EXPENSIVELY RE-APPOINTED THROUGHOUT,superbly located within a broad 'cul-de-sac', including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Porch, Reception Hall, refitted WC, large Lounge, Dining Room, Second Sitting Room, refitted Kitchen with appliances, Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Playroom, FOUR BEDROOMS, Master with REFITTED EN-SUITE BATHROOM and refitted House Bathroom. BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY and a 'sunny' landscaped rear garden. EPC - C KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£259,950

COSELEY, Ivyhouse Lane

Gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family residence with delightful gardens Magnificent accommodation includes; reception hall, cloakroom, 22'6" through lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'Avanti' units, utility room. Gallery landing, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom, toilet. Garage. Block paved drive, extensive garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £250,000

New

KINGSWINFORD, Earlswood Road

A MODERN SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE within a desirable 'cul-de-sac' with DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and an attractive and good size rear garden, all enhancing the SPACIOUS and WELL APPOINTED layout, with GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge with Dining Area, refitted Kitchen, separate Utility Room, THREE BEDROOMS and Bathroom. EPC -: D . KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£141,950

New

GORNAL/ BRIERLEY HILL, Cassandra Close

Enjoying a superb "corner" position within sought after "Badgers Rise" this SUPERB MODERN SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE has been beautifully improved throughout, comprising: hall, WC, lounge with dining area, re-fitted kitchen, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS and luxury re-fitted shower room. Driveway, garage and beautifully landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating: TBA. KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£135,950

New

LOWER GORNAL, Ladbrook Grove, Straits

SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL - Bungalow requiring modernisation with hall, two bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, kitchen. Carport, garden. Agents emphasise the bungalow needs work and past drainage work undertaken. EPC T.B.A. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £134,950

New

DUDLEY, Wrens Nest Road

Tremendously modernised! Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi-detached comprising; hallway, lounge, utility section, store, kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, secure gated parking & rear garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £114,950

New

DUDLEY, Wrens Nest Road

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL. Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached with REAR VEHICULAR ACCESS comprising; hall, through living/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden. EPC: TB.A. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £89,950

SEDGLEY, Setton Drive

Gas centrally heated, double glazed detached comprising; porch, hall, lounge, CONSERVATORY, kitchen with further sitting/ playroom & fitted cloakroom. FOUR BEDROOMS, bathroom. Ample parking, Garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

New price **WAS £214,950, NOW £209,950**

WORDSLEY, Barnett Lane

●●OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 11-1pm●●. A SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE close to good schools, comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, side hall, FIVE EXCELLENT BEDROOMS (including the converted loft) Master with En-Suite Shower Room, and with House Bathroom. With DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and with a secluded garden. EPC - D KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

New price **£204,950**

PENN COMMON, Sedgley Road

ENVIABLY SITUATED! EXTENDED semi detached comprising; hall, dining room, kitchen, lounge, three bedrooms, bathroom, & rear garden (£250.00 allowance towards buyers legal fees) Swift completion available. EPC: E. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,950

SEDGLEY, Queens Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached conveniently situated & briefly comprising hall, cloaks, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC D. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £174,950

DUDLEY, Richborough Drive

Fronting open space- gas centrally heated uPVC D/glazed detached with hall, cloaks, breakfast kitchen, lounge, conservatory, 3 bedrooms (Bed 1 with shower room en suite), bathroom gated, drive garage garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the Region of £174,000

PENSNETT, Tansey Green Road

●●OPEN VIEWING - Saturday 20th Sept. 11 - 1pm●●. A SEMI-DETACHED HOME with DOUBLE GARAGE, comprising: Porch, reception hall, spacious lounge / dining room, CONSERVATORY, refitted kitchen with appliances, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, study / laundry room and bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING/ UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With a LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY and a long rear garden. EPC - E. KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£139,950

TIPTON, Oxford Way

OUTSTANDING uPVC double glazed gas centrally heated semi with GARAGE comprising; superb lounge, hallway, cloaks, fitted cloaks, breakfast kitchen 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom landscaped garden and a brick garage. EPC:C SEDGLEY 01902 880888

WAS £124,950, NOW £122,500

DUDLEY, Old Park Road

ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached being conscientiously maintained & comprising; hall, living/dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, loft. Parking, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £119,995

SEDGLEY, Braemar Close, Northway

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Double glazed, part gas centrally heated (not tested) "starter home" comprising: porch, hall, cloakroom, kitchen, 'L' shape living/dining room, CONSERVATORY. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Gardens. EPC: D. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

New price **WAS £114,950, NOW £109,995**

LOWER GORNAL, Park Road

Gas centrally heated semi detached with potential comprising hall, lounge, store, kitchen, dining room (with patio doors). Two double bedrooms, bathroom; separate toilet. Secluded rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £97,750

Taylors

the property professionals

Kingswinford 01384 401777 | Brierley Hill 01384 265265 | Sedgley 01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge, Halesowen and Bearwood

New

KINGSWINFORD, Murdoch Drive

An INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE, BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED, SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME, offering a SPACIOUS LAYOUT of IMMACULATLY APPOINTED accommodation, comprising: Reception Hall, large Lounge, Games Room / Den / Dining Room, beautifully appointed Dining Kitchen with appliances, FOUR EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS with EN-SUITE, immaculate Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING/ UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With PARKING SPACE, GARAGE and a LANDSCAPED LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN. EPC - C.KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£219,950

New

SEDGLEY, South View Road, Northway

SPECTACULAR KITCHEN! Personal inspection imperative to appreciate remarkable 22ft x 11ft 8" through kitchen (with lofty ceiling height and sky lights) extensive range of 'high fashion' units and many integrated appliances. Situated in favoured district the gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed accommodation includes porch, reception hall, dining room with bay, enlarged 17'3" lounge (with patio doors) three bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with contemporary white suite, neat rear garden, parking. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £182,500

New

WOMBOURNE, Sandringham Road

Within a desirable location, this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED HOME offers ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Reception Hall, attractive Lounge, extended Dining Kitchen, ground floor Bathroom and TWO GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS. With a LARGE DRIVEWAY and a GOOD SIZED, LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN. EPC - D. KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£149,950

WOODSETTON, Tipton Road

"Unspoilt"detached for modernisation in extensive gardens. Gas centrally heated accommodation provides; hall, Living room, sitting room, kitchen, lobby store & WC. Gallery landing, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, garage. EPC:F. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

New price **WAS £250,000, NOW £239,950**

SEDGLEY, Rowena Gardens, Northway

ENLARGED gas centrally heated uPVC D/glazed detached with; hall, cloaks, 18 ft living/dining room, sitting room, enlarged kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, car port, garage, extensive parking. Stunning garden. EPC. D. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £242,500

SEDGLEY, Dudley Road

PERIOD 4 BEDROOM ELEGANCE! - Gas centrally heated semi detached comprising, hall, living room, sitting room,kitchen, utility room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Staircase up to dormer bedroom.Parking, garden. EPC: TBA.SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £237,950

DUDLEY, Berkswell Close, Milking Bank neighbourhood

Gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed detached comprising; porch,hall, fitted cloaks, dining room, lounge, kitchen. Four bedrooms (one with en suite) bathroom, integral garage & secluded rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £219,950

COSELEY, Southall Crescent

EXTENDED gas centrally heated bungalow with THREE BEDROOMS (one with shower room), bathroom, living-room uPVC CONSERVATORY, kitchen, utility roof space with skylights, DOUBLE GARAGE & parking, garden. EPC:E SEDGLEY 01902 880888

New price **WAS £220,000, NOW £215,000**

GORNAL WOOD, Himley Road

Tremendous potential! Gas centrally heated & uPVC/ aluminium double glazed semi detached with porch, hall, lounge,pantry, dining room, kitchen with replacement units, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, garden. EPC E SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £164,950

Kingswinford, Moss Grove

A VERSATILE SEMI-DETACHED 'DORMER' PROPERTY well located with a LARGE REAR GARDEN, offering a SPACIOUS & VERSATILE layout which includes 2/3 BEDROOMS. With LONG DRIVEWAY and GARAGE. EPC: E. KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£158,950

SEDGLEY, Turls Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN.Gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed detached within walking distance of Bullring with porch,hall, cloaks, kitchen, spacious lounge/dining room, uPVC CONSERVATORY, 3 bedrooms, bathroom. EPC:D. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £150,000

WOODSETTON, Parkes Lane

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising; hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage (sub-divided to form store & utility room with toilet off). Garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

QUARRY BANK, Westfield Road

This EXTENDED, TRADITIONAL, SEMI DETACHED HOME has GAS CENTRAL HEATING and although requires some updating comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, kitchen, utility, guests cloakroom, three bedrooms and contemporary shower room. LARGE GARDEN, Large Garage/Driveway. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E

New price **£144,950**

UPPER GORNAL, Priors Mill

Mostly uPVC double glazed gas centrally heated mid townhouse with no upward chain, comprising Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, lawned Gardens and secure parking to rear. EPC C. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the Region of £92,500

BRIERLEY HILL, Cooper Avenue

Within the close end of the Avenue, this MUCH IMPROVED SEMI DETACHED HOME has GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING to comprise: Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and White Bathroom. Drive (no dropped kerb) and Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D

£89,950

BRIERLEY HILL, Addison Road

PRIME BUY TO LET (Possible Rental Yield at 7%) This REFURBISHED HOME has NEW GAS CENTRAL HEATING (02/14) and DOUBLE GLAZING to comprise: Hall, Sitting Room, Re-fitted Kitchen, Guests Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms and Re-appointed Bathroom. Parking and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D

£84,950

WOODSETTON, Roper Walk

uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated first floor flat briefly comprising hall, store, 17'3" living/dining room, kitchen, double bedroom with wardrobes, bathroom, shared grounds & allocated parking. EPC D. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

New price **WAS £71,950, NOW £67,950**

PENSNETT, Tansey Court, Birds Meadow

This MODERN FIRST FLOOR FLAT enjoys a pleasant location within this enclosed garden setting, offeing a SPACIOUS layout with: Reception hall, first floor Hall, SPLENDID LOUNGE, REFITTED KITCHEN, GENEROUS BEDROOM, Bathroom, uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and part Night store heating. Front FORECOURT PARKING whilst OVERLOOKING REAR LAWNED GARDENS with TREES SURROUNDING. This EPC - C .KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777.

£61,950

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OPS APIP NAEA The Property Ombudsman OFT Approved code

LOWER GORNAL
Goodrich Mews

Show home standard and bigger than the average apartment this property really is a must view! Briefly comprises Secure Communal Entrance, L-shaped entrance hall, open plan lounge/diner with bay window and elevated views, fitted Kitchen in red high gloss with fitted integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, master bedroom having fitted wardrobes, white bathroom suite. Two allocated Parking spaces and communal grounds.

£99950

HALESOWEN
Brades Close

Situated in a cul de sac location this house makes for an ideal family home! Having lots to offer including a conservatory, en-suite shower room, and private rear garden with far reaching views! Also comprising entrance hall, downstairs wc, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, family bathroom, rear garden, garage and driveway to the front. Viewing is essential to fully appreciate. EPC - ordered.

179950

TIPTON
Crown Meadow Drive

Beautifully presented and improved to a high standard this property really is a must view! Nicely tucked away and briefly comprises of entrance hall, modern fitted kitchen, lounge with french doors opening on to a decked area, a refitted bathroom suite, two good size bedrooms, front & rear gardens and driveway to the front. EPC - C

100000

WOODSETTON
Rosemary Crescent

A three bedroom semi detached house with a beautiful private rear garden and offering no upward chain. Briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/dining room, conservatory, shower room to the first floor, large driveway to the side of the property. EPC Ordered

£109950

TIPTON
Birmingham New

A three bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/dining room, lean to with a downstairs wc, family bathroom, rear garden, garage and driveway, NO UPWARD CHAIN! Conveniently located for Dudley town centre. Transport links are provided on the Birmingham New Road, in one direction towards Wolverhampton and in the opposite direction towards Dudley and the M5 motorway island.

£90000

ROWLEY REGIS
Knowle Road

MUST VIEW! Having been improved to a high standard by the current owners this house makes for an ideal family home! Briefly comprising entrance hall, modern fitted kitchen/dining room, lounge, master bedroom having fitted wardrobes, family bathroom with a seperate shower cubicle, large rear garden with three storage rooms and a driveway to the front. EPC - ordered.

£124950

TIPTON
Sanders Crescent

A modern 2.5 storey town house offering spacious family accommodation briefly comprising entrance hall, downstairs wc, fitted kitchen, lounge, two double bedrooms and family bathroom to the first floor and master bedroom with dressing area with fitted wardrobes and en-suite. Front and rear gardens. EPC - C.

124950

Lower Gornal
Sandstone Close

A one bedroom first floor apartment located within walking distance to local shops and transport links. The property briefly comprises of stairs to first floor, landing, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. epc ordered

59950

NETHERTON
Cradley Road

Extended two bedroom semi detached tardis! This property really is bigger than it looks. Offering no upward chain and briefly comprising lounge, second reception room, extended kitchen/breakfast room, shower room. Beautiful rear garden and a driveway to the front. EPC Ordered

£114,950

Netherton
Bobbington Way

Improved and maintained by the current owner this property is a must view. A lot bigger than it looks and having two DOUBLE bedrooms! Also comprising entrance porch, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, white bathroom suite, rear garden with access to the garage and driveway to the front.

£105,000

TIPTON
Wood Street

An amazingly presented beautiful family home located within walking distance to local shops and good transport links with Tipton train station within walking distance. This property really is a must view! Briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/dining room, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway to the front.

£140,000

Tipton
Gilbert Avenue

Having two DOUBLE bedrooms this semi detached house located on the M5/M6 corridor with access to excellent links is well worth viewing. Briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/dining room, fitted klitchen, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway to the front. EPC - D

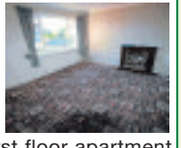
104950

Dudley
Grazebrook Road

No upward chain! Three bedroom semi detached house briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/dining room, downstairs bathroom, large driveway to the front and garden to the rear. EPC - ordered.

99950

Lower Gornal
Sandstone Close



A one bedroom first floor apartment located within walking distance to local shops and transport links. The property briefly comprises of stairs to first floor, landing, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. epc ordered

£59,950

NETHERTON
St Peters Road

●LARGE GAMES ROOM TO THE REAR● NO UPWARD CHAIN● Three bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising entrance hall, large lounge/dining room, kitchen, family bathroom, large rear garden with a games room and a driveway to the front. Viewing is highly recommended! epc ordered

£124,950

DUDLEY
Bean Road

A first floor, one bed flat with double glazing and electric panel heaters. Having a lounge, bedroom, fitted kitchen with appliances, shower/WC.Available now for long term. EPC E

£365 PCM + Fee's

TIVIDALE
Alexandra Way

One bedroom first floor flat. Has open plan lounge & kitchen. Kitchen includes cooker. Bathroom . Double glazing. Unfurnished. Dss considered with guarantor. EPC D

£375 PCM + Fee's

STOURBRIDGE
Richardson Drive

A modern spilt level one bedroom apartment. Near to Stourbridge town. Lounge, fitted kitchen to include oven & fridge freezer. Bathroom on ground floor. Unfurnished. Allocated parking. No Dss. No pets. Available now to view. EPC D

£410 PCM + Fees

RUSSELLS HALL
Middlepark Road

Spacious 1st floor 2 bedroom flat located near to Russells Hall Hospital. Large lounge, fitted kitchen includes oven. Bathroom with shower. Part double glazing. Unfurnished. Gas central heating. Off road parking. No Dss. EPC C

£475 PCM + Fees

CRADLEY HEATH
Sidaway Street

Two bedroom mid terrace house. Two reception rooms. Fitted kitchen includes oven & separate hob. Two double bedrooms. Bathroom with shower over bath. Rear garden. Unfurnished. Dss ok with guarantor. Available now to view. EPC E

£475 PCM + Fees

TIPTON
Bean Drive

A 2 bedroom 2nd floor Apartment, fully modern integrated kitchen, Bathroom with power shower, Central heating and triple glazing, Allocated parking space and security intercom, No DSS and no pets. Available now to view. EPC B

£495 PCM + Fees

TIPTON
Holcroft Street

A well presented two bedroom end terraced house with hallway, lounge with dining area, kitchen, upstairs bathroom, good sized garden to the rear and driveway. Unfurnished, available now to view. No Dss. EPC C

£525 PCM + Fees

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SEDGLEY

NEW

EASTLEIGH

An outstanding three bedroom property in the sought after Sedgley area, this semi detached family home is decorated to a high standard and briefly comprises entrance hall, through lounge, conservatory, spacious fitted kitchen to the groundfloor whilst to the first there are three bedrooms and modern family bathroom. Externally there is a paved driveway leading to the garage whilst to the rear there is a beautiful garden with decking area. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC Rating Is Grade D

£184,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

NEW

ST. MICHAELS GROVE

We are pleased to market this double glazed and gas central heated bay fronted linked detached property comprising of entrance porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen, vestibule, groundfloor wc, landing, three bedrooms and bathroom. Externally having driveway providing parking and enclosed rear garden. EPC Ratings Awaited

£160,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

NEW

RABY CLOSE

We are pleased to market this gas central heated and double improved three bedroom semi detached property comprising to the groundfloor, entrance vestibule, open plan lounge, rear dining room, extended fitted kitchen and storage area (formerly the garage), first floor landing, three bedrooms and shower room. Externally, block paved driveway and rear garden. EPC Rating Is Grade D

£130,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

TO LET

BIRMINGHAM RD

●Modern Semi Detached●Two Bedrooms●Lounge●Conservatory●Double Glazing●Driveway●Available Now●EPC - C

£550 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

TO LET

NEWLAND GROVE

●Three Bedrooms●Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom●Driveway●Available Now●EPC Awaited

£595 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

TO LET

FERGUSON DRIVE

●Well Presented Two Bedroom● Benefits From Electric Heating & Double Glazing●Lounge & Open Plan Dining Kitchen● Two Double Bedrooms●Two Allocated Parking Spaces●Communal Gardens●EPC - Awaited

£445 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

SHREWSBURY PLACE

● Three bedroom property●Lounge●Kitchen/diner●Downstairs Cloakroom●Parking To The Rear●Rear Garden

£650 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

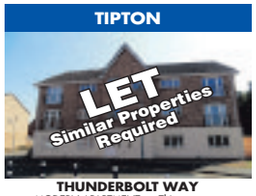
TIVIDALE

OAKTHORPE GARDENS

Two Bedroom apartment
●Lounge
●Kitchen
●New Bathroom
●EPC Rating E

£425 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON



THUNDERBOLT WAY

●●MODERN APARTMENT●● This compact one bedroom apartment is ready to move in to. Consisiting open plan kitchen and living area with new carpets, one double bedroom and bathroom with walk in shower. In fantastic condition throughout.

£395 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

TO LET

PEEL WAY

●Two Bedroom Maisonette●Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom●Now Available●EPC - C

£450 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

TO LET

BERNARD ROAD

●Large Semi Detached
●Three Bedrooms
●Lounge
●Kitchen
●Bathroom

£545 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

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ELAN01-08 03/2013

DUDLEY

NEW

WRENS NEST ROAD

IMMACULATELY PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE!!!!!!! A gas centrally heated & double glazed where stated mid townhouse comprising to ground floor entrance hallway, kitchen/diner, lounge & cloakroom, landing, three bedrooms & bathroom. Externally having low maintenance rear garden & allocated parking. EPC Rating Awaited

£115,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

SEDGLEY

REDUCED

DUDLEY ROAD

Two bedroom bay fronted semi detached bungalow in a popular residential location viewing recommended. This double glazed and gas central heated two bedroom semi detached bungalow comprising of entrance porch, entrance hall, two bedrooms, shower room, kitchen/diner and lounge. Externally there is a garden to the front and enclosed rear garden along with off road parking. Epc - d

£160,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

GORNAL WOOD

HIMLEY RD

An extended three bedroom detached property in the sought after GORNAL WOOD AREA. The comprises entrance hallway, cloakroom, spacious through lounge, conservatory, beautiful kitchen/dining room and utility room whilst to the first floor there are three good sized bedrooms, family bathroom and separate walk in shower cubicle. To the front there is a driveway providing parking and leads to the

£285,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

WANTED

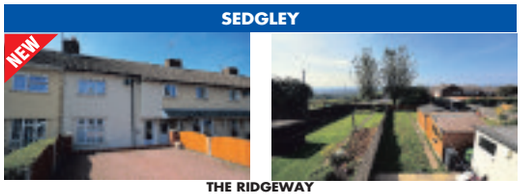
2 BED MODERN PROPERTIES ON OR AROUND THE TIVIDALE QUAYS UPTO 100K BUYER WAITING

WANTED

WE URGENTLY REQUIRE 2 BEDROOM PROPERTIES IN THE DUDLEY AREA UPTO £90,000, BUYERS WAITING

SEDGLEY

NEW



THE RIDGEWAY

A double glazed & gas centrally heated mid terraced having no UPWARD CHAIN & comprising to ground floor hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, dining room, utility room, ground floor guest cloakroom, landing, refitted bathroom, two bedrooms & attic room. Externally having block paved drive & rear garden. EPC - D

£89,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

sales lettings mortgages

ARLA

K.Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION - 30th September 2014

15 BECKMINSTER ROAD, PENN FIELDS.

Well presented Semi in popular residential area. Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, smart Kitchen, Utility.
Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH, Double Glazing . Off-road parking to front, Charming Rear Garden EPC: D56

Guide: £89,000 / 94,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 19th & 20th SEPTEMBER @ 10.00 a.m.

2 HATTON ROAD (off PAGET ROAD) WOLVERHAMPTON

An uniquely located large Edwardian Semi with many period features spacious Hall, Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility area . Four First Floor Rooms, Bathroom, W.C. Spacious Attic
Garden Room, Garage, attractive Garden
EPC: G.18

Guide: £94,000 / £99,000

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46 RICHES STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

An impressive and spacious Late Victorian House in convenient location Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Room, Kitchen, large Ground Floor Bathroom. Galleried Landing, Three Double Bedrooms, Shower Room
Enclosed Rear Garden EPC: F.29

Guide: £120,000 / £130,000

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15 CARTER ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Investment Property

Two Bedroomed Mid Terraced
Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom. Enclosed Rear Garden. Currently producing £4,500 pax EPC: D59

Guide: £45,000 / £50,000

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2 HILL CLOSE, SEDGLEY

Ripe for modernisation – Hall, Through Lounge, Kitchen, Lobby, WC, Store.
Three Bedrooms, large Bathroom
Front and Rear Gardens, off road Parking EPC: F.26

Guide: £68,000 / £73,000

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11 CHURCHFIELD AVENUE, TIPTON

Extremely well presented and spacious Top Floor Flat
Hall, Kitchen, large Lounge with fine balcony off, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, WC., Parking.
EPC: D62

Guide: £30,000 - £35,000

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221 MOSELEY ROAD, BILSTON

In an elevated position – a Semi-Detached Bungalow with large rear garden and open aspect beyond.
Porch, Hall, large Lounge, Sun Lounge, Kitchen. Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing EPC: D.62

Guide: £49,000 / £54,000

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'HIGHBURY'
11 ELM AVENUE, BILSTON

Substantial and impressive Late Victorian House. Enclosed Porch, front Entrance Hall, Cellar, fitted Cloakroom, Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, W.C
Outside: Stores, W.C., Garage, charming Garden EPC: F32

Guide: £150,000 /£160,000

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38 CHURCH STREET, BILSTON

Investment

Town Centre location with generous footfall - Shop Unit with display window (currently Ladies' Hairdressing Salon), Lobby, Two Rear Rooms, W.C., Cellar and

NOS. 38A, B, C & D CHURCH STREET

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Vauxhall's hot Astra GTC

By David Banner

An Astra GTC is available with a powerful 1.6-litre direct injection petrol engine, priced from just £20,995 on-the-road.

First seen in the Cascada convertible, and packing 200PS and 300Nm of torque, the four cylinder unit allows the GTC to achieve a top speed of 143mph and 0-60mph time in 7.3 seconds, making it the fastest non-VXR model in the Astra range.

Peak power and torque are increased by up to 30 per cent over the previous 1.6-litre turbo model, yet fuel consumption of 51mpg combined and emissions of 154g/km have meant a 13 per cent improvement in efficiency.

The engine brings sector-leading refinement to the Astra GTC range. It is the only unit in its class to feature twin balancer shafts for smooth running, while a host of sound engineering measures have been made for low noise, vibration and harshness (NVH).

Priced from £855, Vauxhall also introduced the innovative Intellilink infotainment system to the Astra GTC range.

Intuitive and user-friendly, the system features satellite navigation, voice control, Bluetooth phone and audio connectivity, picture viewer and Gracenote album art, all via its high-resolution 7in touch-screen display.

In addition, the top-of-the-range Navi 950 IntelliLink contains Europe-wide street level mapping with updates easily downloadable via USB.

Drivers can also have incoming text messages read out to them, as well as integrating their smartphones' own voice recognition functions.

"We've strengthened our Astra GTC offering with a strong and powerful 1.6-litre petrol engine and the cutting-edge Intellilink infotainment system," said Stuart Harris, Vauxhall's head of carline brand.

"Vauxhall is really throwing down the gauntlet to UK coupe sector rivals with these enhancements to our Astra GTC range."

Lifetime

With the Astra GTC and all models in its passenger car range, Vauxhall gives peace of mind for the life of the vehicle via its industry-leading Lifetime Warranty.

Available to the first owner, the warranty is valid for the lifetime of the vehicle up to a maximum of 100,000 miles.

Vauxhall has also made the top-selling Astra available with a super-smooth generation 1.6 CDTi engine, Vauxhall's cleanest-ever mid-size diesel.

Previously only available on the Zafira Tourer and the Meriva, the new 1.6 CDTi engine is now set to enhance the Astra's appeal as Vauxhall continues to significantly refresh its powertrain offer.

The much-lauded engine is available in two power outputs: 110PS and 136PS, in both hatchback and Sports Tourer body styles.

The 110PS version achieves 76.3mpg combined with CO2 emission of just 97g/km, and 72.4mpg combined and 104g/km in 136PS guise.

'It is the only unit in its class to feature twin balancer shafts.'

Quiet and refined, the 1.6 CDTi is one of the best engines in its class for noise and vibration thanks to an efficient combustion process with multiple injection, re-designed components and the use of acoustic covers.

Already Euro 6-compliant, the engine is best-in-class in noise and vibration generation.

Not only is the 1.6 CDTi super-refined, it's also clean and powerful, too.

A high-pressure common rail injection system and lean NOx trap exhaust-after treatment (LNT) improve efficiency, while a variable turbine turbocharger help make the new diesel a strong performer, too.

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DRIVETIME

In driving seat with V40

By James Parker

The Volvo V40 is a slick and wholly convincing family hatch. Where V used to mean 'estate' in Volvo nomenclature, this time round it's a five-door spin-off of the C30 coupe with a broad range of engines and some delightful interior detailing. Prepare to be surprised.

Most British-bought V40s will deliver diesel drive via the four-cylinder 115bhp, 1.6-litre unit we're looking at here, as fitted to the entry-level D2.

It's no ball of fire of course – 60mph takes 11.7 seconds on the way to 118mph – but it's as fast as most will need it to be and 270Nm of torque means you won't have to row the car along with the gearlever in town, an environment where the V40 is very much at home.

Here's a hatch clearly developed by people who care about driving.

The result is a very good compromise indeed of absorbent ride and assured handling composure.

You can always spoil it if you want to by opting for a 'sports' chassis that offers firmer springs and dampers, and lowers the ride height by just under half an inch, also lowering the centre of gravity.

The D2 model is capable of a headline-grabbing 78.5mpg on the combined cycle and a 94g/km of CO2 reading that'll side-steps the need for road tax and payment of the London congestion charge.

To put that into perspective, at the time of launch, a comparable 109bhp Mercedes A180 CDI managed 55.4mpg and 136g/km.

Even BMW's eco poster pin-up model, the 116d EfficientDynamics, struggles to get close.

The latest Volvo XC60 is more smartly styled these days – particularly at the front where there's a much sleeker look. But the important stuff lies beneath the bonnet.

The AWD D4 diesel model in RDesign trim that almost all buyers choose offers a sophisticated and efficient engine, namely a 2.4-litre five-cylinder unit now upgraded to 181bhp.

There's also a £1,500 option of automatic transmission with a Geartronic six-speed gearbox.

The D4 AWD manual model will return 53.3mpg on the combined cycle and 139g/km of CO2, which is actually very good by class standards.

The latest styling changes comprise a redesigned front featuring a re-sculpted bonnet.

The Swedish company has made a concerted effort to remove any black trim pieces from the exterior to create a more upmarket, cohesive look.

The XC60 also benefits from an interior upgrade. There are now better quality wood inlays, a plusher headlining, textile B-pillars and there are also some very well finished silk metal frames around the air vents and light controls.

The rear seats remain a little higher than the front pair to give better visibility for children and the two outer seats in the back can be specified with two-stage booster cushions.

The interior feels very airy courtesy of some serious glazing overhead, the laminated glass panorama roof being one of the biggest in the sector.

The load opening at the back is also the widest amongst the XC60's direct competition, opening to reveal a 480-litre capacity.

As in the XC70, the rear seat is a three-piece affair that folds 40-20-40, with each section capable of folding down completely flat.

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What's not to like in great value fast hatch

By David Banner

Ford's Fiesta ST has long been the thinking person's fast hatchback. This latest one is no exception.

With 182PS on tap, it keeps things real and the pricing looks great as well. Ford has certainly put down a serious marker. The plushest ST3 version adds sat nav, keyless entry, cruise control, auto headlamps and wipers, power folding mirrors and electronic climate control that many owners will want.

So-called 'warm hatches' have often been a tricky sell. Why? Because there's usually a faster version that's more desirable. Warm hatches are usually bought by younger drivers who want the faster car but can't afford the insurance bills. There is an exception. Ford's Fiesta would appear to be the perfect candidate for a searing hot hatch, but in recent years, instead of a fire-breathing RS model, the pinnacle of Fiesta sporting ambition has been the ST line. But the 'Sports Technologies' variant has usually been a great car in its own right.

Now we've got another Fiesta ST to compare with earlier standard setters. Instead of the 150PS it had in previous generation form, it gets a heftier 182PS. Does this lift it into a more serious price category? Not a bit of it. Ford has kept the pricing keen, so much so that we suspect that some manufacturers of this Fiesta's opposition are starting to feel more than a little worried.

The top ST3 version we're going to look at here costs an extra £1,000, but still manages to look good value against many obvious rivals.

Ford has developed new chassis and suspension components to improve the ride quality and refinement of the car and further enhanced the Ford Electronic Power Assisted Steering system.

Unique suspension and steering tuning and better Torque Vectoring Control (eTVC) combines with a 15mm lower ride height to deliver the requisite dynamic improvements over what is already a very good chassis.

Ostentatious

Ford produce the Fiesta ST in both three and five door guises, but there are no plans to import the five-door car to the UK. But when the three-door model looks this good, I doubt too many tears will be shed. The big front grille (which can look a bit ostentatious on an ordinary poverty-spec Fiesta supermini) works well with the ST's more extrovert body styling. That runs to an imposing black honeycomb trapezoidal front grille, plus a large rear spoiler with twin air vents and twin exhaust.

Colour choices including Molten Orange and Spirit Blue and an optional style pack adds red brake calipers and grey alloy wheels to pump up the aggression a bit.

The rising beltline of the Fiesta in profile doesn't seem to bode well for the rear seat passengers in this three-door car but the Fiesta surprises with decent legroom and headroom that's manageable even for a six-footer. The windows are small and set high up, so light isn't abundant in the back but the shopping bags, coats and road atlases that owners will store there most of the time won't be overly worried.

Standard spec for all Fiesta STs runs to 17in alloy wheels, a body styling kit with a chromed dual exhaust pipe, a Quickclear heated windscreen, front fog lights, a Thatcham Category 1 alarm, a leather-trimmed ST steering wheel and gearshift knob with red stitching plus a decent quality stereo system incorporating a DAB digital radio. There's also Ford's clever Bluetooth/USB SYNC connectivity and the 'My Key' system via which you can tailor the systems of the car to your own settings communicated to it via the ignition key.

The whole point of sporty Fiestas has been to offer a generous slice of fun coupled with modest running costs. It was always thus with the old XR2 and it continues with this generation ST. Even with 182PS on tap, you'll still see 47.9mpg on the combined cycle with emissions pegged at a very reasonable 138g/km. That compares well with cars like the 208 GTI, which manages 139g/km and the Fabia vRS at 148g/km.

It's hard to see how Ford could have done a lot better with the Fiesta ST. Warm hatches are usually a difficult thing to position as there will always be that nagging feeling that if you just saved a little more, you could be in something more exciting, but the ST has long stood up very well as a model in its own right.

With 182PS on tap translating into a sprint to 62mph of just 6.9 seconds, this Fiesta is quicker than many of the proper hot hatches of not so very long ago. It'll most certainly out-handle some fairly illustrious names as well.

An integral part of bringing a warm hatch to market is managing costs and it's here that the Ford really plays its trump card. It gets 47.9mpg on the combined fuel economy cycle and emissions are rated at just 138g/km - but the biggest draw is certain to be the price tag.

At just £17,000, the base model is very tempting and even in the £19,000 ST3 guise we've looked at here, it still strongly pays the value card.

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DRIVETIME

Honda unveils its new special edition CR-Vs

Honda (UK) has unveiled two eye-catching, special edition variants of the popular CR-V, the Black Edition and White Edition.

Both share a range of bold exterior enhancements that give the car even greater road presence. The CR-V Special Edition models represent a saving of £770 compared to the CR-V SE-T combined with the relevant optional equipment.

With both the Black Edition and White Edition, the CR-V's distinctive styling is enhanced with the addition of bold 19in Orion alloy wheels, exhaust finisher and privacy glass.

A new patterned front grille gives a more powerful expression of performance, while a tailgate spoiler extends the flowing lines of the roof over the rear window to give a sleek, dynamic look. Smoothly integrated running boards add practicality and visual impact, while front and rear skid plates top the styling upgrades while protecting the underside of the car.

The special editions also benefit from the generous specification offered with the CR-V SE-T, which features dual-zone climate control, Bluetooth HFT, front and rear parking sensors and power-folding door mirrors, plus metallic paint and satellite navigation all as standard.

The CR-V special editions will be supported online at www.honda.co.uk/headturner with a campaign which dubs the new model 'The new head-turner from Honda'.

The site invites users to choose 'Which one turns your head?', with an interactive graphic showing the percentage split between those favouring black against those opting for white. Users can also tweet their preference with the hashtag #CRVWHITE or #CRVBLACK, or share their choice on Facebook.

Leon Brannan, head of cars for Honda (UK) comments: "The CR-V is already a very popular choice thanks to its combination of distinctive and refined styling and excellent versatility.

The new Special Edition Black and White enhance the range even further, offering real stand-out appeal and a bold new look. Now the only decision for customers is which colour most turns their head!"

The new models are available now in manual or automatic, with either the 2.0 i-VTEC petrol or 2.2 i-OTEC diesel engine.

On the road prices start from £28,400 for the petrol manual version. Honda (UK) is currently offering competitive low monthly PCP payments from just £309 on the CR-V Special Edition.

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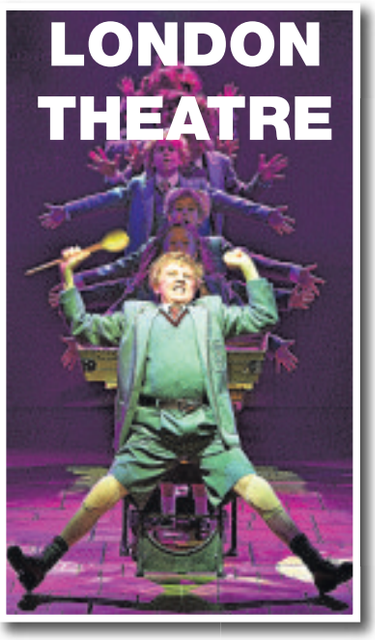

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6 Property

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Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

THE SECRETARY OF STATE hereby gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up of a southern part width of the Bromley Lane service road and a western part width of Randall Close at Kingswinford, in the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley.

IF THE ORDER IS MADE, the stopping up will be authorised only in order to enable development as permitted by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council under reference P14/0462.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT ORDER AND RELEVANT PLAN will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Planning Department, 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, DY1 1HL in the 28 days commencing on 18 September 2014, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State (quoting NATTRAN/WM/S247/1511) at the address stated below.

ANY PERSON MAY OBJECT to the making of the proposed order within the above period, stating their reasons for doing so, by writing to the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk, quoting the above reference. In submitting an objection it should be noted that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant to enable your objection to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your objection.

Dave Candlish
Department for Transport

10 Personals

personal

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Partridge is making pro debut on home turf

Boxing

IT'S safety first for Dudley's Ryan Partridge when he makes his professional debut with a home town bout at the Venue tomorrow.

The 21-year-old light middleweight from Wren's Nest makes his bow on his own turf, where he has previously boxed as an amateur for Priory Park Boxing Club.

Partridge enjoyed a stellar career in the unpaid ranks, reaching a Clubs for Young People national semi-final in 2011 and amassing 21 victories from 31 bouts.

He also won a Uni Box belt with a victory over pro-turned back-amateur Nathan Decastro last year, making it a double success after a rematch two weeks later. His measured style has produced results and, outside of the ring, he works as a safety steward at home games for Birmingham City Football Club.

His former mentor from his kickboxing days, former world champion Mick Wolohan, got him the job after training him for a black belt at the Black Country Martial Arts Club.

It's discipline he took into boxing after switching sports aged 13 and Partridge believes it will lead him to more success in the pro ranks.

He said: "I have never been one of those fighters who bounces around in the ring, I like to slow things down and pick my punches.

"I stopped kickboxing years ago but Mick has always been good to me, he will be there to cheer me on and will probably be sponsoring me soon.

"I think my style will be more suited to the pros, everyone is telling me my power has improved and my opponents will feel that. Hanging back and sitting down on my shots brings the strength through, along with natural maturity which is coming on all of the time.

"I have always been tough, I can brawl when I need to but I have plenty of skill, which I plan to show on the night."

"This has been a little while coming."

Partridge will be pitted against Matthew Ashmole, a 34-year-old Welshman competing in his 21st professional fight, over four rounds.

For more information and tickets, call promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson on 07976 283 157. The Venue can be contacted on 01384 459 800.

Athletes run Hoops around reservoir

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club ventured to mid Wales on Sunday for the annual Lake Vyrnwy Half Marathon, a 13 mile road race around the Victorian reservoir.

With a coach partyfrom the club there were plenty of blue hoops in attendance.

Graham Wildgoose was first back for the club in 188th in 1.33.16, Mark Gatenby 190th in 1.33.41, Mark Judge finished on 1.34.21 in 210th place.

Richard Tonks finished in 234th 1.35.38, Roger Beddard came home in 1.40.14 for 352nd to claim second place in his age group, John Andrews was placed 390th in 1.42.37 and Paul Baker 393rd in 142.05.

They were followed by Jason Richards in 1.43.50, Catherine Quane 1.44.05, Mick Quane 1.44.06, David Fennell 1.47.52, Dave Garbutt 1.48.08, Helen Davies 1.49.46, Sarah Cox 1.49.52, Jacqui Elson-Whittaker 1.50.53, Alison Whitehouse 1.53.19, Lisa Newell 1.59.21.

Nigel Warrington came home in 2.05.10, Suzi Geraghty 2.07.00, Ingrid Cain 2.07.13, Jane Somerville 2.07.13, John Glover 2.10.14, and Gina Collins 2.10.14.

Yeltz drawn away in next round of FA Cup

HALESOWEN secured a safe passage into the FA Cup second qualifying round after striking three goals within fifteen minutes early in the second half against Sutton.

The previously unbeaten visitors only attempt on target came after 14 minutes when Andre Gonzalez struck straight at home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant.

In a disjointed first half, Joel Kettle's attempt to guide a 21st minute volley into the bottom corner was then blocked by his former Sutton team-mates.

Football

A 15 minute delay followed as an injured assistant referee was replaced and the Yeltz forced four corners in quick succession with Iyseden Christie's header tipped away by goalkeeper Lee Evans before Robert Thompson-Brown fired a good chance over the Sutton bar.

Lead

The Yeltz re-emerged with all guns blazing after the half-time interval and took the lead when Elliott Turner's 49th minute long free kick sailed straight past Evans into the far corner with Chris Lait in close attention.

Defender Curtis Tilt nodded home Turner's 56th minute corner to double Halesowen's advantage, with goalkeeper Evans only helping the ball cross the line.

Just three minutes later, Thompson-Brown made it a comfortable 3-0 by skipping past two defenders down the left to curl home the goal of the game after being set free by Christie's clever reverse pass.

Halesowen almost added to their tally when Kettle's 68th minute header was well saved by the keeper Evans.

Sutton had no response and it was Halesowen who very nearly added to their tally on a further three occasions.

Kettle's 68th minute header was saved by Evans and ever-adventurous Lait was thwarted as he tried to clip over Evans in front of goal after surging forward and playing a neat interchange of passes.

Tilt, the captain, then struck the side netting on a swift 71st minute Yeltz counter attack .

In the final minute Danny O'Callaghan blazed over the Halesowen bar for well-beaten Sutton.

As a reward for their victory, Halesowen Town FC have been drawn away to Ellistown & Ibstock United from Leicestershire in the Budweiser FA Cup Second Qualifying Round.

The match will be played on Saturday, September 27, at Terrace Road with kick off 3pm. In the first qualifying round, Ellistown & Ibstock beat Hereford 3-2.

Dale serves up a win to be third time lucky

Men's champion Dale Abbotts and ladies' champ Alison Grove seen with their trophies

IT was third time lucky for Dale Abbotts as he became Wollaston Tennis Club's Men's Singles Champion for the first time after losing in the final on the last two previous occasions. Abbotts made the final without dropping a set in the knockout rounds and the trend continued as he defeated Kelvin Vincent 6-1, 6-3 in Saturday's final.

The Ladies Singles trophy was contested for by Jean Brayshay and Alison Grove.Alison secured her second title having previously won the Ladies Singles Championship in 2001. Alison's winning streak did not end there as she went on to claim the Ladies Doubles Title with Katy Piller in their victory against Amy Fellows and Hannah Didlock.

Alison then made it a hat-trick of wins in the day , winning the Mixed-Doubles Plate Final with her son Will Moloney. Perhaps the closest game of the day was in the Men's Doubles final. This saw Kelvin Vincent and Dave McEwan overcoming Pete Talbot and Dave Southwick, but only after being forced into a final set which was won 7-5.

Pete Talbot was also involved in the Mixed-Doubles Final, this time, with partner Louise Jew. Despite being 5-2 down in the final set, they overcame Pauline Clutterbuck and Dave McEwan to win the decider 7-5.

Aston is hoping to teach a lesson

SCHOOL'S out for Dudley's Ryan Aston as he takes one more step towards the big time with a home town bout at the Venue next week, *writes Craig Birch*.

The talented light middleweight has been able to train full-time for six weeks, with the pro section at Priory Park Boxing Club, to prepare for his fight tomorrow night.

The 23-year-old has been on holiday while term is finished at High Arcal School, Dudley, where he works as a mentor and teaching assistant.

That's left 'Tank' to fully focus on solving how he's going to defeat Damian Taggart over six rounds, with the Northern Irishman expected to put up a fight.

He took Max Maxwell the distance in the Brummie's retirement fight three months ago, in a losing effort at the British Masters Bronze middleweight belt.

But Aston wants a live opponent for a must keep busy fight as he targets win 13 in his 16th pro contest, before rejoining the title hunt.

For more information and tickets, call promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson on 07976 283 157.

Cup place is secured after scare

STOURBRIDGE put on a dominant display at Market Drayton Town to take their place in the FA Cup second qualifying round.

Despite going behind, the Glassboys hit back with a brace of goals from Jordan Fitzpatrick and a late penalty from Ben Billingham.

An upset looked to be on the cards when the Gingerbread men took the lead after 11 minutesbut Gary Hackett's side levelled on 32 minutes when Fitzpatrick rose to head home a Billingham cross. After Fitzpatrick's second, Billingham scored from the spot.

Stourbridge have been drawn away to Blaby and Whetstone Athletic in the second qualifying round on September 27.

Heavy loss for Coseley Town ladies

Coseley Town 1
Walsall Ladies FC 6

A SOLID team performance earned Walsall their first win of the season as they beat Coseley.

The girls built on the previous week's last-minute equaliser against Burton Albion, with an emphatic win.

The game started scrappily but after some good play by Walsall, Jodie Bragan found herself out on the right and delivered a fantastic ball into the box for Lauren Armstrong to tap in on her debut.

Armstrong then doubled her tally and it wa 3-0 at half time. The second half continued in much the same vein although Coseley managed to pull a goal back after a flick on from a corner.

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Wollaston Tennis Club championships
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Sports Desk 01902 319531 email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Baggies fans are losing patience

MID-SEPTEMBER is much too early to declare a football club in crisis. But Albion doesn't half feel like one right now.

With a chronic lack of goals, kamikaze defending, fans and players at each other's throats and a host of summer signings yet to make their presence felt, the season could hardly have started worse for the Baggies.

They lost 2-0 at home to Everton and are second bottom of the Premiership.

After a brief injection of optimism thanks to a summer overhaul of the squad, they are back to feeling like a club painfully ill at ease with themselves.

And at the centre of the emergency is a very decent, likeable man who finds himself turning into a lightning rod for two years of anger and frustration.

Alan Irvine stands accused by a growing number of Baggies fans of being 'out of his depth'.

Given the dreadful circumstances he has encountered since his arrival at The Hawthorns, the charge is harsh.

Yet Irvine is wise enough to know that, just four league games into his reign, pressure is beginning to mount and will continue to increase until he can find a way to win a game or two.

Singles and doubles joy

PROMISING teenager Tom Welsh highlighted the burgeoning junior section at Bewdley Tennis Club by winning both its men's singles and doubles titles.

The 15-year-old, who doesn't turn 16 until December, dethroned defending champion Alfie Sylvester, 18, with a brilliant display to win 6-2, 6-1.

Welsh's punishing forehand and fierce double-fisted backhand yielded a succession of winners against his more experienced opponent.

It was a double blow for Sylvester who earlier saw his hopes of a fourth doubles title with elder brother Jack, 21, denied by Welsh and partner Jack Henfield who staved off a match point to win 6-2, 6-7, 7-5. One Sylvester celebrating was Alfie and Jack's mother Mandy who chalked up a tenth singles title after defeating Alison Rosoman 6-2, 6-2.

Victorious Villa in dreamland at Anfield

Football

LIVERPOOL may consider taking down the famous 'Welcome to Anfield' sign' the next time they get a visit from Villa.

Paul Lambert's men will be far from welcome after continuing their flying start to the season with a stunning victory. on Merseyside

Saturday's success, courtesy of Gabby Agbonlahor's ninth-minute strike, took Villa's tally to eight points from their last four visits.

It also left the Claret and Blue army chanting 'We're going to win the league' after a third win in four matches put them second in the table. Who can blame Villa's fans for basking in the glory of a superb opening to the campaign?

Lambert's side grabbed an early lead through Agbonlahor and then restricted their hosts to few create clear-cut chances.

With Daniel Sturridge sidelined for up to three weeks with a thigh injury – for which manager Brendan Rodgers has still not forgiven England – it meant Liverpool started a game without him or Luis Suarez, a summer departure to Barcelona, for the first time since December 2012.

The pair scored 56 league goals between them last term so it was immediately apparent where the Reds were most likely to be under the greatest strain.

Stifled

Lambert knew this, and also the fact their opponents have still not entirely cracked the defending set-pieces thing, and that was what he targeted.

A well-drilled Villa denied Liverpool space in the final third which stifled much of their forward progress, while the visitors attacked with speed e and were aggressive at corners and free-kicks – which ultimately produced their winner.

Mario Balotelli was brought in by Rodgers last month to provide additional firepower but he was kept in check by Philippe Senderos. The Swiss defender adopted a physical approach and certainly made his presence felt. He got away with at least one blatant hack at the former Manchester City striker off the ball which would have likely resulted in a red card had referee Lee Mason or either of his linesmen seen it.

SIX-STAR KICKING SHOW DOWNS DK

DUDLEY Kingswinford were slowly kicked to defeat as Scunthorpe landed six kicks out of six and led 18~6 with seven minutes to go.

Scunthorpe made use of their full back Steve Johnson whenever he was in range and he didn't disappoint, although DK pulled it back near the end to make it a close finish.

Rugby

The first half ended 6~6. DK's Kieran Pinches had kicked two penalties, and Nick Adams had missed one from long range but it was only just off line.

DK also kicked one for the corner which was within Adams's range. The DK line out was struggling to produce clean ball in the first half and the crowd were vocal about 'not straight' at some of the Scunthorpe ball into the line out, but not the referee and he is the one that matters.

Excellent

Considering DK had shipped 11 tries the week before, the defensive effort was excellent and there was no real threat to DK's line in the first 40, and, in fact, on a couple of occasions Pinches had deftly kicked into the Scunthorpe 22, only to be foiled at the line out.

In truth, neither team could claim to really be on top, so a 6~6 score at half time reflected the efforts.

The second half developed in to a pattern, DK counter attacked with wide sweeping moves from deep which stretched the Scunthorpe defence one way then back again, but they too often ended with the referee's whistle at the breakdown and often a Scunthorpe penalty.

In fact, throughout the half full back Johnson was given shots at goal which he hit through the middle every time until it became 6~18 with seven minutes to go. Danny Hawkins, Adams and TJ Gordon had all made substantial ground with the ball in hand during this period.

Then, following the restart DK won a penalty, kicked for the clubhouse corner, collected a long ball at the line out and attacked their line. This lead to the forwards driving towards the line again and they were able to release Connah Jones to score a try. Pinches added the extras, vital because it had secured a bonus point.

Then the proverbial kitchen sink was thrown at the line for the remaining minutes but it wasn't to be. Final score DK 13~Scunthorpe 18.

● Also, just a reminder that DK will welcome England head coach Stuart Lancaster to the club tomorrow night for an evening of rugby talk. Tickets are £60.

Connah Jones scores a try for Dudley Kingswinford but it was in vain as Scunthorpe beat them 18-13

Heathens choose enemies

CRADLEY have picked arch-rivals Mildenhall as their National League play-off semi-final opponents.

Heathens bosses got the choice after topping the table and have opted to face the side which pipped them to the title two years ago in controversial circumstances at King's Lynn. The teams will meet over two legs with the winners facing Coventry or Kent in the final.

The first leg will take place at Monmore on Tuesday, September 23 with the return at West Row on Sunday, October 5. Heathens have reserved Tuesday, October 7 for the home leg of the Knockout Cup Final should they see off Coventry. The away leg against the Storm has yet to be arranged, but Cradley have a 35-point lead.

The Heathens/Fen Tigers rivalry stems from the 2012 play-off final. After Adam Roynon and Mildenhall's Stefan Nielsen collided, Mildenhall co-promoter Chris Louis entered the officials' box in contravention of the rules and discussed the incident with referee Dave Robinson before the decision was taken to exclude the Heathens skipper.

New boy brings Darlaston victory

DARLASTON made it two consecutive wins and kept their first clean sheet of the season at Long Lane, helped by new boy Richard Young.

The new signing from Sporting Khalsa, on as a sub for injured Reeves, beat his marker and whipped in a superb cross met by Swann with a far post header giving Fowkes no chance.

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website www.wombourne-windows.co.uk
Wombourne 1st Windows
call us now on 01902 897000
Morlock House, Bridgnorth Road Wombourne, South Staffs WV5 0AL
Showroom Opening Hours 2014
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